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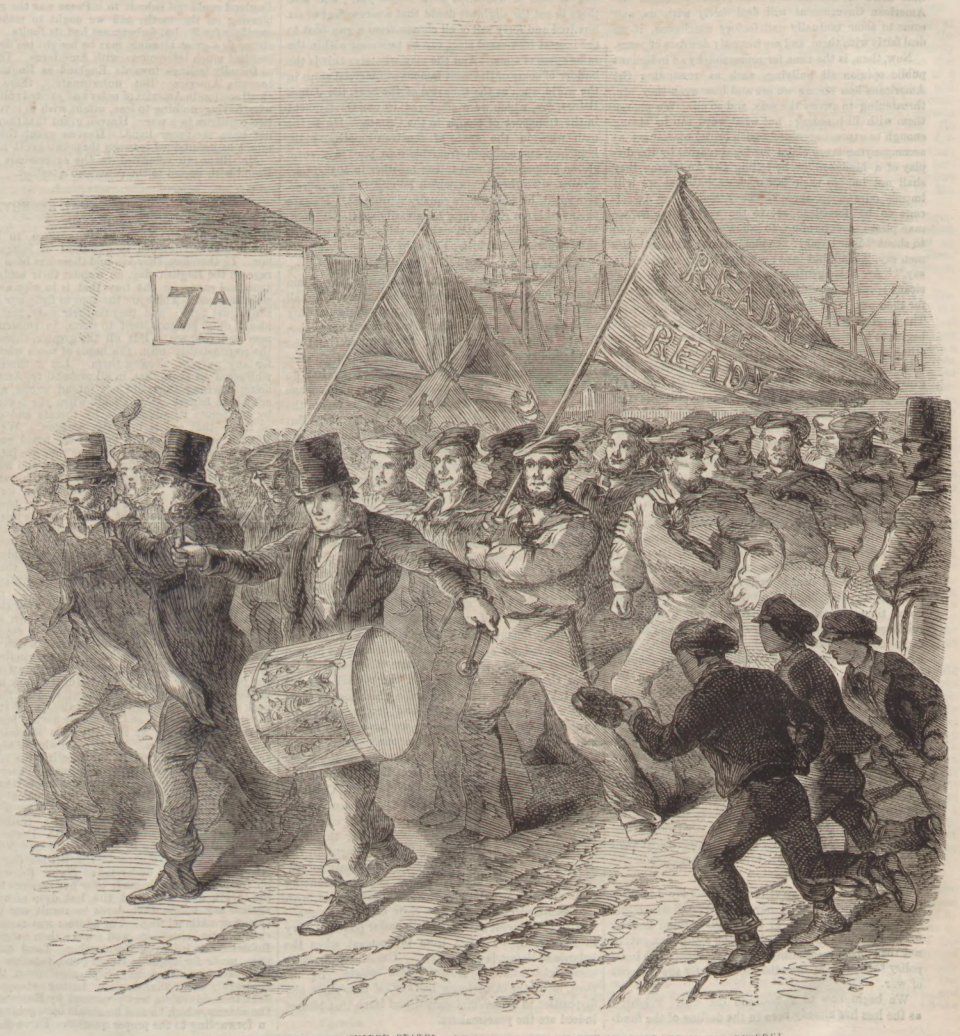
THE PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER

WITH ALL THE NEWS OF THE WEEK.

No. 10.] LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1861. [Vol. 1.



THE DIFFICULTY WITH THE UNITED STATES.—DEMONSTRATION BY THE SUNDERLAND NAVAL RESERVE.

Topics of the Week.

Notwithstanding the bustle and activity of military preparations, we believe we may congratulate our readers on greatly-improved prospects of peace. The American newspapers are almost unanimous in acknowledging that the seizure of the Trent *may* have been wrong, and are evidently preparing the minds of their countrymen for the possible contingency that Messrs. Slidell and Mason will have to be given up. This is so far gratifying. We have in these facts an answer to the malignant imputation that has been so eagerly sought to be fastened upon the Americans, that they intentionally insulted us, with a view to war. They not only do not want war, but they own they are unprepared for it, and will not have it, if they can possibly avoid such a disastrous collision. General Scott's letter, at once so manly and conciliating, shows us the truth—which so many unscrupulous pens are constantly trying to conceal—that the seizure of the Trent was the unauthorised act of an individual Captain; and, although it is not easy to deal rightly with such an incident when it does happen, since it raises so many dubious points of international law, yet he says—and his opinion is confirmed by the opinions of the American press—that there is not the slightest reason to doubt the American Government will deal fairly with us, and come to some mutually satisfactory conclusion, if we deal fairly with them, and are honestly desirous of peace.

Now, then, is the time for repressing by an indignant public opinion all bullying, such as reminding the Americans how strong we are and how weak they are, threatening to sweep the seas, and so on. We charge them with ill-breeding; but what word can be strong enough to express accurately such brutal coarseness as accompanying every claim for legal redress by the display of a bludgeon, or by telling the Americans they shall not impose their law upon us, but that we will impose ours upon them? They want the Americans to be forced to act to the very letter as we may please to determine, to allow no discussion, and to shout "War! war!" the moment our Transatlantic men say, "Well, but wait; we, too, have something to say." Are these gentlemen afraid of letting the Americans speak to a candid English public? It augurs ill for their own faith if they are. Perhaps they are right. The English public is calming down wonderfully. It begins to see there are two sides to this as to so many other quarrels. Writers of reputation do not hesitate to show they are beginning to have very grave doubts as to many of the questions involved. Now, granting that we are right in this, still the fact remains that it may have been from an excess of kindly and considerate feeling towards England that the vessel was allowed to proceed with all its contents, the two Commissioners alone excepted, and the American sailors thus resigning their chance of prize-money. But, putting this consideration aside, and acknowledging the Americans to be wrong, what are we to say if they address us in some such words as these:—"You know now the act was unpremeditated, and must acquit us of any evil intention. Your Captain knew their condition and business when he received them on board, and he knew your Queen's proclamation forbade all help to either side. Did he not do us, then, a great wrong? Was he not abusing the privilege of a neutral? Above all, we ask you to look back—compare our conduct in this matter with your own when you had objects to achieve that you thought important, and then say conscientiously if you can that your conduct was then right and that ours is now wrong. You will not say this. You do not say it. Then, if you own you were wrong once, why can you not be a little indulgent to us now, if we do strain a point in our great difficulty and distress? If you say the precedent is bad, dangerous, we grant that, and will join you in taking care there shall be no more such precedents. But do not, while you complain of us for substituting force in the place of law, go yourselves and do exactly the same thing. We are ready to discuss in a friendly spirit; and, if you reciprocate, we shall be sure to find a better outlet from the present difficulty than any war can show us."

In some such terms we venture to think Mr. Lincoln's Government will reply to our demand; and we greatly misconceive the temper of the English mind and its moral principle if Lord Palmerston's Government be not then made responsible for a very different kind of policy than that of brandishing instantly the weapons of war.

We begin now to understand the cost. Frightful as the loss has already been in the decline of the funds and the stoppage of trade, we must prepare ourselves for a state of things far more severe, and for sacrifices as indefinitely protracted as they must be costly. While ignorant or dishonest persons talk of sweeping the seas of all American ships, the *Saturday Review* owns that the increased expense of ship insurance may alone almost balance the benefit obtainable by the opening of the cotton ports. While the *Times* quotes lists of the American navy, showing that it is contemptible when compared with ours,—another proof that no such war has ever been contemplated—Mr. Donald M'Kay, the eminent American shipbuilder, tells us, in a letter addressed to a daily paper, that within the last *two months* there have been launched, fitted, and equipped in American naval and mercantile yards ten screw sloops-of-war, and twenty-six screw steam gunboats of a size and with an armament never hitherto attempted in any of the navies of Europe. He says that they could fit out from the existing mercantile navy five hundred clipper-ships of from 2000 to 4000 tons each, and carrying each from twenty to fifty of the heaviest guns, and have the greater part of them ready in six weeks. He says five hundred fast sailing brigs or barques can also be transformed into war-vessels carrying from eight to thirty guns. He says, further, they can build sixty of the largest class of war-ships in a single year; and that there is not the slightest doubt that a screw-fleet of six hundred and forty sail of all classes, from a gun-boat to the largest iron-cased ship, can be produced within the same space of time. And the man who says this is the builder of some of the most famous commercial ships in the world, such as the Empress of the Seas, the James Baines, &c., which were employed by our Government in the transport of troops to the Crimea. He is the man who, in the space of fourteen months, built, launched, and equipped from his own yard a fleet of eleven clipper-ships amounting together to 40,000 tons burden. To these facts, which he urges in no aggressive spirit, he adds others equally significant. He says their Dahlgren rifled guns have easily shattered proof-butts coated like the Warrior's sides, but with still thicker plates—6in. instead of 4½in.

Now, if we must fight—in other words, if a wrong has been done which we can in no other way obtain redress for—then we shall be the first to say, "Let all such facts pass as the idle winds; we will do our duty at any and every cost." But if we are not very clear, indeed, both as to the justice of our quarrel and the impossibility of redress by any other mode than war, then these facts should be well weighed, so that we may know what kind of contest we are about to engage in—one of the most terrible, and probably one of the most futile, wars that ever scourged humanity. But we believe with Mr. M'Kay that, in spite of the "childish brag and taunts on both sides," there "exists in all the well-meaning minds of both countries the most friendly mutual feeling;" and therefore we say it is impossible that either can plunge the other into such an unnatural strife. No, not even though Napoleon is good enough, through the Government organs, to pat England on the back and beg her by all means to avenge her injured honour. The *independent* French press tells a very different tale. They give us plainly to understand the sympathies of the French people will be with the Northerns; and they are by no means complimentary as to the motives—cotton and other—with which they conceive our Government and public men to be biassed. If we needed any additional incentives to peace beyond all these we have them in the state of Ireland, where three thousand men, meeting in the capital, warn us they take different views of a strife which makes them fight their own fathers, sons, and brothers who now swarm in the Federal armies; we have them in the many voices raised for peace from our pulpits; in the meeting at Exeter Hall and the memorial of the Peace Society to Lord Palmerston; we have them in the plaudits which welcomed at Rochdale Mr. Cobden's letter and Mr. Bright's noble eloquence, and which we doubt not will be reproduced in most of our great towns with like effect, if this fratricidal war threatens us much longer. It may be a disappointment to the *Times* and its coadjutors to see the peace maintained, but we cannot afford to have that paper announcing after the next American War what it announced, with undissembled chagrin, at the close of the last one—"With the bravest seamen and the most powerful navy in the world, we retire from the contest when the balance of defeat is against us." The Americans were then eight millions. Now they are twenty. Let us, then, meet the Americans halfway, if they show any disposition to an accommodation, and learn that blessed indeed are the peacemakers.

THE LIBERAL WHIPPER-IN ON THE AMERICAN WAR.

At the dinner which followed the Lewes Fat Stock Show, on Tuesday, the Earl of Chichester presided, his immediate supporters being the Hon. H. Brand, M.P., the whipper-in of the Government, and Mr. Blencowe, M.P., the other member for Lewes.

The health of the borough members having been proposed,

Mr. Brand said he had that morning read in a newspaper a speech of a member of Parliament (Mr. Williams), who, the night before, delivered an able address, full of statistical details of great interest, in the course of which he was continually interrupted by cries of "How about America?" Well, that was the question. We hardly met a man who did not put the question, "Is there to be a war with America?" Well, who could answer such a question as that? But that question was not to be answered by England, but by America. And if any one would tell him whether the American Government, in their councils, were guided by passion or by reason, he would then be able to say whether there would be war or peace. If the councils of the American Government were guided by reason, we should have peace; if these councils were guided by passion, we should have war. Of this he was quite sure, that England regarded with the most friendly feeling the people of the United States. They looked at the civil war between the States themselves as a great calamity. They would look upon a war between England and America as a greater calamity. But the greatest calamity of all would be national dishonour. That England could not submit to. Peace was the greatest blessing on the earth, and we ought to make great sacrifices for it; but forbearance had its limits. Peace, although a great blessing, may be bought too dear. He had had much intercourse with Americans. They had as friendly feelings towards England as England had towards America. But, unfortunately, there was a small section in America of noisy and excited politicians, who, having nothing to lose, might wish to involve the two countries in a war. Heaven grant that they might not have the upper hand! Heaven grant that peace might be maintained between these two great nations!

Mr. Blencowe coincided in the expressions of Mr. Brand with regard to the American question.

PROCESSION OF THE NAVAL RESERVE IN SUNDERLAND.

Nobody will expect our hardy seamen to become politicians and learned in questions of international law. If, therefore, they are told there has been an outrage on the English flag, no wonder their souls are in arms and eager for the fray that is to wipe away the stain in blood. These are the men to fight our battles, if we must fight; and they do their duty, just as the idea of duty presents itself to them, in singlemindedness and courage. But all the greater, therefore, is the responsibility upon the heads of those who would, for any purpose, deceive them. Let it therefore be whispered to them that, in all probability, America in doing a wrong thing did not intend wrong, and will act as an honest nation should when she is convinced by temperate language—not by threats and displays of force—that she is in a false position. We do not think it would lower the tone of our naval reserve if we so dealt with them as to assume they are intelligent men, not desiring war for its own sake, and who will, therefore, be only too glad to find that the war-clouds will blow away. They will know better, we think, than to suppose, if we do go to war, that John Robertson will prove right in his patriotic imaginings about not leaving one American ship on the open sea within a couple of months. But John Robertson's feeling is excellent, and we only want to put him right about his facts and speculations. With these preliminary remarks we give the current narrative of an interesting local incident:—

The men of the Royal Naval Reserve at Sunderland have not been behind their brother seamen at other ports in expressing their determination to support the Government in any extreme measures which it may ultimately find necessary to adopt to vindicate the honour of the British flag against the recent attack upon the mail-steamer Trent. On Saturday week upwards of 100 members of the force assembled on the main-deck of the training-ship Trincomalee, now stationed in Sunderland Docks, and, the chair having been taken by John Robertson, he addressed his shipmates in a few stirring sentences. At the conclusion of his speech the chairman submitted to the meeting the following copy of an address, which he proposed they should send to Captain Heard, the commander of the Trincomalee:—"Her Majesty's ship Trincomalee, Sunderland, Nov. 30 Captain Heard. Sir,—At a general meeting held on board her Majesty's training-ship Trincomalee, now lying in the South Dock, it was resolved—That, seeing by the *Shipping and Mercantile Gazette* the insult offered to the British flag by the Americans, we, the undersigned Naval Reserve men, do freely and spontaneously offer our services to resent the insult, and will shed the last drop of our blood against any nation that dares to insult our gracious Queen or national flag." The address was carried amid enthusiastic cheering, and was then signed by Robertson on behalf of the meeting. Loud calls were then made for Captain Heard (who, together with all his officers, had entirely kept aloof from the proceedings), and, the Captain having stepped upon deck from his cabin, was presented by Robertson with the address, which he said he should have great pleasure in forwarding to the proper quarter. Three cheers fo

the gallant Captain concluded the proceedings. Before the men dispersed it was resolved that they should meet again on Monday and show to their fellow-townsmen, by a public demonstration in the streets, that they were thoroughly in earnest. Accordingly, at one o'clock on Monday afternoon they assembled on board their training-ship in much larger numbers than on Saturday, men both on and off drill coming forward to join in the procession. On stepping ashore they formed in ranks, and preceded by the union jack, with a band of music at their head, perambulated the docks and the principal streets of the town. In the centre of the procession was borne a large banner, on which were inscribed the words "Ready, aye ready!" On their return to the Trincomalee, Robertson again addressed the assembled tars. They wished (he said) to show the Government that they were not paying the retaining-money to the men of the reserve for nothing; and that now, when a crisis was apparently about to arise, the reserve-men were able, willing, and ready to fulfil their agreement. War was not yet declared; but he had not the least hesitation in saying that within two months of the day when it might be declared there would not be an American ship afloat on the open sea. Other ports might turn out in greater numbers, but he defied them to produce a finer body of men than would be found in Sunderland. The demonstration was then brought to a close with a round of vociferous cheering. The total strength of the reserve in Sunderland is between 800 and 900 men.

Home News.

THE COURT is still at Windsor. The Prince Consort has been confined to his apartments for the past week, suffering from a feverish cold, with pains in the limbs. Within the last two days the feverish symptoms have rather increased, and are likely to continue for some time longer, but there are no other unfavourable symptoms. In consequence of the illness of his Royal Highness, the removal of the Court to Osborne has been deferred. The Prince of Wales is about to visit the Holy Land and the East. On Monday next the Prince leaves Cambridge, and on the following evening a grand entertainment is to be given in his honour by the Earl and Countess of Hardwicke. On Wednesday, the 18th, the Prince joins the Court, and, after spending the Christmas holidays with his august parents, will start for the regions which from remote ages have presented such interest and attractions to Western Europeans. On his way to the East the Prince will visit Prince Leopold, in his Franco-Italian retreat at Nice.

THE DIFFICULTY WITH AMERICA.—The interest attending the complication with the United States has not yet died away, though in Liverpool, which might be called the head-quarters of the "indignation" movement, a decidedly easier feeling prevails. The preparations for the contingency of war are going on with an activity which is quite fearful to contemplate. The Melbourne steam-transport sailed last Saturday for Canada with troops. A call has been made for three sergeants from each regiment at Aldershott, to drill the Canadian militia, and in one instance thirty sergeants volunteered from one regiment. Ten guineas, "war risks," have been paid at Lloyd's for ships from New York to England, and the rates from England to India increased fifty per cent. The shipowners of Hull, it is reported, have been applied to, to supply steam transport in case of a war. Commander Williams, R.N., of the Trent, has been thanked by the Government for his conduct; and an American ship, bound for New York, was stopped in the West India Dock on Thursday, because she had 100 tons of lead on board. Further orders have been given given to put additional vessels of war in commission, and the activity both in naval and military quarters is quite sufficient to show the country that there is great danger of war. The committee of the Peace Society are doing what lies in their power to avert the miseries of so great a calamity. An "aggregate meeting of Christians of all denominations" was held in Exeter Hall on Thursday (the day on which Earl Russell's despatch was expected to be placed in the hands of the American Government), "to beseech Almighty God in his providence to guide the counsels of the two Governments and preserve to both countries the priceless blessing of peace."

REPEAL OF THE HOP DUTIES.—A meeting of the hopgrowers of the western counties was held at Worcester on Saturday last, Sir Thomas Winnington in the chair, to take into consideration the state of the hop duties. Lord Holmesdale, Mr. Beresford Hope, and others attended as a deputation from the Central Association for the Repeal of the Hop Duties. This association is based on the principle of repealing both the excise duty on home-grown hops and the customs duty on those imported from abroad, but the Worcester and Hereford hopgrowers are not in favour of the repeal of the customs duties. The resolutions adopted at the meeting were for the repeal of the excise duties only.

TOM SAYERS'S CIRCUS IN OXFORD.—The prohibition put out by the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors against the undergraduates visiting this exhibition was carried out to the letter. The Proctors, university police, and special constables were in attendance close to the circus at both performances yesterday week, and as the collegians offered themselves for admission they were sent back. The few that did evade the authorities did so in disguise. This prohibition, and the wet weather, was a great drawback to the pecuniary success of the performances.

GREAT BIRD SHOW AT SOUTHAMPTON.—During the past week the annual show of the Hampshire Ornithological Association has been held in the Royal Victoria Rooms at Southampton, and it has proved to be one of the largest and best collections of birds ever witnessed. Living representatives were present of the different varieties of the canary, parrot, parroquet, cardinal, cockatoo, love-bird, waxbill, &c., and almost every class of British birds was exhibited on the stands. Upwards of 100 prizes were awarded. The show was well attended on each day, and the association appears to grow rapidly year by year in public estimation. There were between 300 and 400 cages, containing in all from 1000 to 1500 birds, on the stands.

PROPOSED ROAD THROUGH KENSINGTON GARDENS. The deputations from the different parishes interested in having a road made through Hyde Park had an interview with Mr. Cowper on the subject on Saturday last. The right hon. gentleman exhibited a plan which he thought would meet the views of the inhabitants, in which a subway was shown about 20ft. below the surface level, to run through, not Hyde Park, but Kensington Gardens, at a point that would not interfere with the Serpentine. This subway, ornamented, would add to, rather than detract from, the beauty and the quietude of the surrounding landscape. The great question was the expense. The deputations had no authority to raise money, and Mr. Cowper distinctly assured them that nothing was to be expected from Parliament.

THE PEER AND THE HORSESHOE.—The ancient custom of demanding a horseshoe, or the money-value of one, from a peer the first time he visits Oakham has again been put into practice. The Earl of Camperdown accompanied Lord Aveland to the recent cattle show, and the noble Earl was afterwards waited upon at Normanton Hall by the bailiff of the town, upon whom the duty falls of reminding peers of the custom. The officer left Lord Aveland's seat without a horseshoe, but with the wherewithal to purchase one, which has been duly ordered, and will in a few days be added to the already extensive list of shoes now on the Castle walls.

DEATH IN THE PULPIT.—A very awful and melancholy event took place on Sunday week in the church at Heckington, during Divine service. The Rev. Charles Cameron, Vicar of Christ's Church, Trusley, Derbyshire, aged fifty-four, was about to preach: he had ascended the pulpit and had given out the text (from the 93rd Psalm, and the latter part of the 5th verse), when he was attacked with paralysis, which at first greatly affected his speech; in the course of three or four minutes he became inaudible, and fell on the seat in a totally unconscious state. He died about four o'clock the same afternoon.

DISTRESS IN SHEFFIELD.—The *Sheffield Independent* gives a very discouraging picture of the prevailing distress in that town. In a leading article it is remarked: "There is now presented to us the spectacle of widespread misery and want. Thousands of industrious men are unemployed, and their families are in a state of destitution. Many have resorted to the guardians of the poor for support, and heavy rates follow one another in rapid succession, driving numbers of the poor who have hitherto kept themselves just above pauperism into the abyss. It is twenty years since we were familiar with such a state of things." Meetings are taking place in all the wards to raise funds to relieve the pauperised artisans.

A CHARITABLE MAYOR.—Sir John Arnott, M.P., Mayor of Cork, has invested £40,000 in the establishment of a "monster bakery" and milling concern, with the view of selling bread to the poor at first cost during the approaching season of scarcity and distress.

LORD PALMERSTON, notwithstanding his surprising vigour, is not entirely free from the ills to which a portion of aristocratic humanity is subject. He has been suffering from the gout, but on Saturday last the noble Lord was reported to be much better. He is just now in London, where, no doubt, his duties will keep him, if his gout does not.

THE DEATH OF SIR PETER LAURIE, which took place on Tuesday week, occasions a vacancy in the Court of Aldermen. Sir Peter will long be remembered as one of the celebrities of the city of London, although his great age and feeble health had long since compelled him to withdraw from public life.

MR. SPURGEON ON WAR.—On Sunday morning the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon preached a very effective sermon at the newly-erected Tabernacle, selecting for the text of his discourse the 9th verse, 5th chap., Matthew:—"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." The opportunity afforded by the text was made use of by the orator to make special reference to the existing state of affairs between England and America; and, while fully recognising the propriety of maintaining the right of Great Britain to afford an asylum to the oppressed of all nations, Mr. Spurgeon very eloquently insisted upon the necessity for calm forbearance towards a great country so intimately allied to us. Mr. Spurgeon wound up a most impressive sermon by referring to the words of the text as applicable to every-day life. The auditory completely filled the immense building.

MR. HORSMAN addressed his constituents at Stroud on Tuesday. The greater portion of the right hon. gentleman's speech was devoted to the American dispute. He insisted that right was on our side, and said that if the Americans insisted on provoking a war they were much more likely to lose Maine than to annex Canada.

SHORT TIME IN THE COTTON DISTRICTS.—The *Manchester Guardian* gave the other day a tabular statement of the condition of employment in the cotton districts, which is believed to be more complete than any yet published. The returns are from 1233 mills, ordinarily employing 266,507 operatives, and the result shown is an average reduction of 34 per cent in the working hours. The number of hands actually out of work in the total of 266,507 is 93,194. With regard to the future course of the millowners, it is said that the reduction of employment will be increased at Christmas to at least 50 per cent. Indeed, many firms contemplate stopping for a clear month at that season. Others will limit the cessation to a week.

MR. WILLIAMS addressed his constituents at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, on Monday. The hon. gentleman's speech was, for the most part, a review of the leading events of the last Session. He alluded in very conciliatory language to the difficulty with America, which he earnestly hoped would be peacefully settled. A vote of confidence in the hon. gentleman was passed with great cordiality. A resolution in favour of referring the American question to arbitration was also adopted with much enthusiasm.

THE COVENTRY RIBBON TRADE.—The state of the trade and working population of Coventry is (we learn from the *Birmingham Daily Post*) daily becoming more alarming, and very few people entertain lively prospects of anything like substantial and permanent relief for several months to come. We have this week to announce the suspension of the largest ribbon-manufacturer, Mr. James Hart. Various reports are in circulation with regard to the amount of the liabilities; but it is generally believed to be not below £40,000 or £50,000.

THE REV. NEWMAN HALL delivered on Monday, at the Surrey Chapel, an admirable address on the American question, to an audience which completely filled the spacious edifice. The rev. gentleman eloquently expatiated on the criminality and folly of a war between this country and the United States, and pointed out to the working classes especially how completely such a war would be opposed to their interests and to the progress and civilisation of mankind. He urged that the quarrel was a matter for friendly discussion and, if needs be, for arbitration, and that, instead of employing the language of passion and perpetrating deeds of violence, we should exhibit calmness and forbearance. The sentiments expressed by Mr. Hall met with the hearty approval of his auditory.

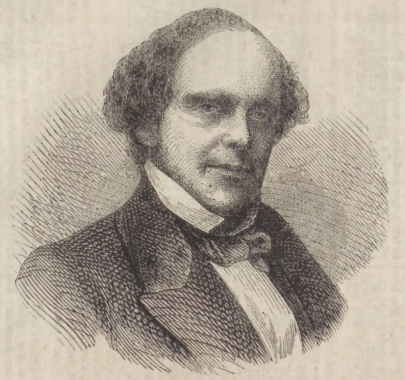
THE NEW EDUCATION CODE.—An influential deputation of gentlemen connected with schools which receive the Government grant for education had an interview with Lord Granville and Mr. Lowe on Tuesday. They stated their objections to the new minute, and petitioned for its withdrawal.

AN IRISH M.P. ON THE AMERICAN CRISIS.—The O'Donoghue presided at the demonstration of the National Brotherhood of St. Patrick at Dublin last week. There were 3000 of the humbler classes (chiefly mechanics) present. The O'Donoghue made a violent speech upon the probability of war between England and America. He alleged that it gave Irishmen an intense satisfaction (tremendous cheering). Ireland's opportunity—an opportunity such as she never before enjoyed—was approaching, and if they they did not take advantage of it they would be practically accepting a foreign dominion and slavery. It was the object of England, he continued, to force North America into war, that she might destroy her commerce. The rest of the speech aimed at inflaming the minds of the people against England. She was about to enter upon an unjust war. Other speakers followed, who appealed to the passions of Irish Americans. A committee was named to carry out the purposes of the meeting by an organisation.

NARROW ESCAPE.—One day last week a man named Webber was standing on a ladder cleaning the windows in the upper part of a house in St. Stephen's, Norwich, when the leader of a team of horses drawing a waggon having been checked by the driver to make way for a gig that was passing ran against the ladder, knocking it down and breaking it. Strange to say, Webber caught hold of the projection of the roof, and clung to it till he was safely rescued.

THE LAW OFFICERS AND THE TRENT.—It is said that our legal authorities are by no means unanimous on the Trent business. One very high legal functionary, I am told, had grave doubts. Another boldly affirms that we have no case. Again, it is said that some difference of opinion prevailed upon the propriety of issuing the proclamation recognising the South as a belligerent power, and I believe it to be certain that a distinguished law officer strongly objected to issuing it without stipulations. His notion was that we ought to stipulate with the Southerners that our ports should not be used by them as ports of refuge. In the City I learn that no ships can be insured beyond a certain date at any price, so strong is the feeling there that war is imminent.—"The Lounger at the Clubs" in the *Illustrated Times*.

THE FIRE AT ANTWERP.—The *Indépendance Belge* says that the Belgian sugar-refinery at Antwerp and other great commercial establishments were reduced to cinders by this fire. It seems, moreover, that seven or eight lives were lost amongst the firemen and the military. Fortunately, the vessels in the basin hurried out to sea at the commencement of the disaster, or they must have shared the same fate. It is stated that the sugar-refinery was insured for nearly 1,000,000f., and the other great establishments for 2,000,000f. All the insurance companies are severely affected.



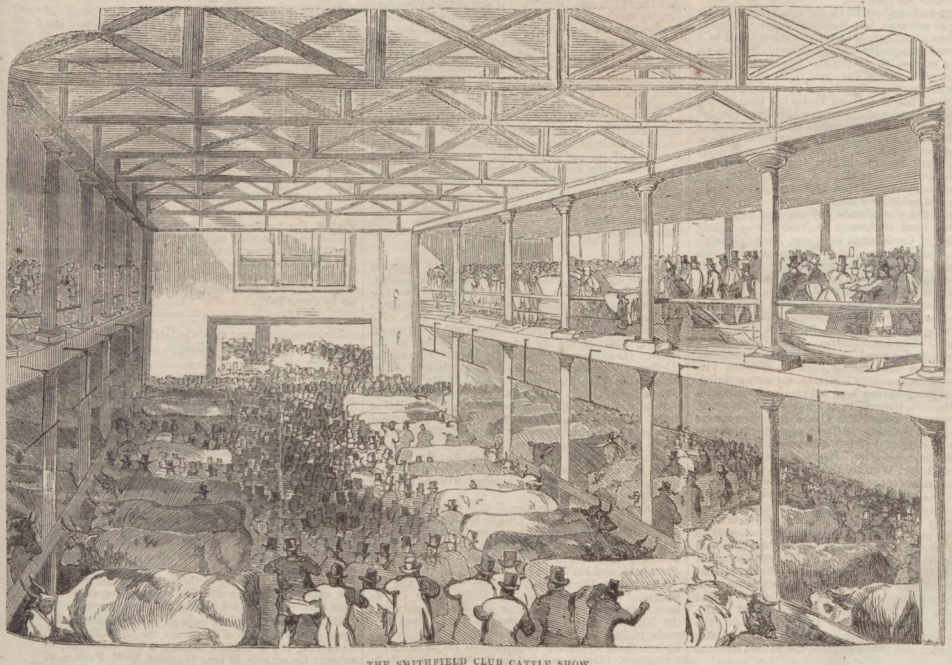
P. CHASE, THE AMERICAN MINISTER OF FINANCE.

MONTGOMERY BLAIR, THE AMERICAN MINISTER OF MARINE.

SIMON CAMERON, THE AMERICAN MINISTER OF WAR.

PENSACOLA BAY AND FORT PICKENS.—SEE PAGE 151.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.—A PRIZE HEREFORD OX



THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

Foreign News.

AMERICA.

By the Niagara from Boston we are in receipt of news to the 27th, and telegraphic intelligence, via Halifax, to the 28th ult.

General M'Clellan reviewed 70,000 troops on the south side of the Potomac on the 20th of November. The President, Cabinet, Foreign Ministers, and about 30,000 people were on the ground as spectators. The movements of the troops were satisfactory to all present. Vessels continue to pass the Confederate batteries on the Lower Potomac, although they are sometimes fired into. Another naval expedition was being fitted out at Fortress Monroe to operate upon the Southern coast. It was supposed that it would be under the command of General Butler. The troops landed in Accomac and Northampton counties in Eastern Virginia had met with a satisfactory reception from the inhabitants. Those in arms had surrendered their weapons and dispersed. Several pieces of cannon and three officers had been captured. The people had signified their desire to recognise the Legislature of Wheeling as the State Government. The Government forces had not taken possession of Beaufort. Contrabands continued to arrive at the camp. It was understood that they would be employed in gathering the cotton on Hilton Head Island, large quantities of which were left by the Confederate planters in their hasty retreat from the presence of the "invaders." The Government troops had taken possession of Tybee Island, at the mouth of Savannah River. The privateer Beauregard had been captured.

President Davis, in his message, indulges in a very copious review of the situation of affairs as far as the Confederates are concerned. He descants exultingly upon their "victories," making little or no reference to the repeated checks and defeats which they have also sustained, and endeavours to justify the Confederate invasion of Missouri and Kentucky by assuming that the people of those States were opposed to the Union. He dwells on the difficulties of postal communication, and suggests the construction of a new system of transit between the two extremities of the South, by the construction of a railway between Danville, Virginia, and Greensborough, North Carolina. He deals very dexterously with the arrest of the Confederate Commissioners, for whom he claims the rights of ambassadors, and he proposes to offer to the European Governments evidence of the inefficiency of the blockade. His remarks, too, upon the stoppage of the cotton supply, and the probable diversion of labour to other employments, are evidently intended for foreign ears. He speaks with confidence of their pecuniary resources, though these, in fact, are simply paper money, and the Confederate bonds are said to be already circulating at a discount of 30 per cent.

According to President Davis the Confederate States are united as one man, but the intelligence we receive from two important points of their territory lead to a very different impression. From North Carolina we learn that a convention of delegates representing forty-five counties of the State has been held at Hatteras, with a view to organise a Provisional Government under the flag of the Union. General Taylor has been elected Governor, and a series of ordinances have been adopted preparing the way for the exercise by North Carolina of all its old functions. Again it is stated that General Dix's expedition to Eastern Virginia has been entirely successful, that the inhabitants have received the Federals with every manifestation of satisfaction, and that a large body of Southern troops have laid down their arms and made their submission.

The seat of the Confederate Government was about to be moved from Richmond to Nashville—probably another sign of Confederate weakness, Nashville being five hundred miles south-west of Richmond. Sickness was reported as very prevalent in the Confederate camps. Smallpox was stated to be the principal disease. The Union men of East Tennessee had destroyed some of the most important railway bridges in that part of the State, thereby greatly interfering with the ready transit of troops and munitions from the South-west into Virginia. The recent retreat of the Union troops in Kentucky had proved an unfortunate movement. The Confederates were falling back in Western Virginia, and reinforcements of Union troops were arriving. The Federal army having been withdrawn from South-western Missouri, General Price's forces had advanced, burned Warsaw, crossed the Osage River, and were moving towards Osceola. A large expedition was preparing for the descent of the Mississippi River. The Confederate Commissioners, Messrs. Mason and Slidell, had arrived at Fort Warren, Boston. An ovation was given to the officers of the San Jacinto by the Bostonians, on which occasion Captain Wilks informed the people that in the capture of Messrs. Mason and Slidell he acted entirely upon his own responsibility; that he had received no instructions from the Government to take them from a British vessel. Little apprehension was felt in the United States concerning the affair, inasmuch as the most of the journals considered that Captain Wilks had acted strictly in accordance with the principles of international law; and, even if proved by England that they had not, they almost unanimously (the ever-infamous *New York Herald* being the significant exception) expressed their wish for conciliatory speech and action towards the British Government.

By later news we learn that the great naval expedition was ready to sail from Port Royal for points further south. The Quebec correspondent of the *New York Times* states that a council of war was held on the 24th ult., at which it was resolved to fortify the Canadian frontier.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

The boast of the *Vienna Gazette* that the places of the Hungarian Comitat functionaries were easily filled up is thus explained. The Government quarter eighteen soldiers on any man who will not serve the office, and these fellows remain till they eat the poor functionary out of "house and harbour," or till he consents to serve the office. The Government journal of Austria denies that the Imperial finances are in a bad state. The reason why the budget is to be submitted to the "representatives of the people" is quite a different affair. That is done on constitutional principles alone, and when it is done a bill will be presented on "ministerial responsibilities" at the same time. These are the promises of the Austrian *Gazette*.

FRANCE.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on Sunday evening, says:—"It seems to be generally understood that at the last Privy Council it was resolved that France should, for the present, stand absolutely neutral between the United States and England. This idea predominates in an article by M. Grandguillot in this evening's *Pays*, in which, after combating the reasons offered by some journals, and particularly the *Presse*, for immediate action on the part of France, the writer says:—'As to France, without pretending the least in the world to say what she will or what she will not do, we think she would be perfectly justified in saying to both parties, "I alone have always defended and constantly respected the principle which you by turns invoke and violate. For the very same reason that my sympathies at the beginning of the century were in favour of America fighting against England for the right of neutrals, I cannot now refuse to approve England in her struggle for the same right against America. The parts you respectively play are transposed, but the principle remains the same." .... There is no doubt that France, like General Scott, hopes that the present most unfortunate affair of the Trent may be the occasion of placing the international law regarding the rights of neutrals in time of war upon a more rational footing than it has hitherto stood."

The Paris correspondent of the *Post* is assured that American affairs have again occupied the Imperial Council of Ministers. Prince Napoleon is taking an active part to inspire the French Government with a spirit of reconciliation, as between England and the Federal Government, and he warmly opposes recognition of the South or of slavery. General Scott is full of hope about such an answer being given to Lord Lyons as shall satisfy the immediate demands of her Majesty's Government, with the understanding, however, that the law code of the rights of neutrals shall be revised.

The *Patrie* has published a despatch from New York, dated the 27th ult., in which it is stated that President Lincoln displays a highly conciliatory spirit in reference to the affair of the Jules et Marie and the San Jacinto.

The *Ami de la Religion* has received a first warning for having published an article entitled "Reform in Russia," "which," states the warning, "under the pretext of criticising the reforms of a foreign Government, contains an attack against the French Constitution."

The Valley of Dappes question, which excited so much angry feeling between Switzerland and France, creeps to the light again in the French journals. The *Débats* contains an angry article on the subject, and claims the valley imperatively for France. This kind of thing would have little influence or hold on the public mind if it were not believed that the French Government still "inspires" certain journals, notwithstanding the undisputed claim of the *Moniteur* to officiality. Little things are thus puffed into formidable dimensions.

ITALY.

At a debate in the Italian Representative Chamber last week upon the Roman and Neapolitan questions, Signor Ratazzi made a speech in support of the Government, both in regard to the Roman negotiations and the disturbances in the Neapolitan provinces. He contended that it was unjust to blame the Government for the failure of the former, or the existence of the latter. He expressed a firm belief in the sincerity of the French Government, in its determination to aid in suppressing the brigandage, and its desire that the occupation of Rome may cease. Rome, he declared, naturally is, and will soon be in fact, the capital of Italy. Alluding to his recent visit to Paris, he described it as being of a purely personal character, and he repudiated the designs upon the Premiership which were imputed to him in connection with it. He warmly urged the union of all the constitutional parties, and his speech throughout was received with unanimous and cordial applause.

According to the *Italia*, the French Government has addressed a very important note to the Court of Turin, offering its efficacious assistance in the repression of the brigandage in the southern provinces, and announcing that it will insist upon the withdrawal of Francis II. and his Court from Rome.

The Italian Government has just detected the existence of a Bourbonian plot in Sicily, which was to have broken out into something like the brigandage of the Neapolitan provinces. Several arrests have been made in Palermo, principally of priests, scarcely any laymen there appearing to have been involved in the conspiracy. Great satisfaction is said to have been expressed in Sicily at the promptitude with which the authorities have acted in the matter, and the manner in which all spilling of blood has been avoided.

Garibaldi has returned to his island home. Before leaving Turin he had a lengthened interview with the King, and also one with Signor Ratazzi. If his mission had any special political object, no hint of its nature seems to have transpired.

General Cialdini is at present described as somewhat unwell. There would be nothing alarming in the announcement of his indisposition; but there is something exceedingly alarming in the announcement of the means taken to restore him to health. The Italian journals state that he has been already bled twice. Remembering the fate of Cavour, we are strongly of opinion that Cialdini would do well to trust himself to the disease rather than to the remedy.

On Sunday an eruption of Vesuvius took place near Torre-del-Greco. This eruption was of a more threatening character than any that has taken place for a long period. The inhabitants took to flight. The stream of lava was 28 palms in depth, and three-quarters of a mile broad.

PORTUGAL.

Letters from Lisbon state that the new King of Portugal has announced his approaching marriage with the daughter of the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen. The Princess is just sixteen years old.

PRUSSIA.

The elections in Prussia seem to have given a most decided triumph to the Liberals and the progressive party. The feudal party has suffered so complete a defeat that, according to the *National Gazette*, it may be said to be almost entirely extinguished so far as the new House of Representatives is concerned. In Berlin not a single candidate belonging to the Conservative party has been chosen; while a candidate professing bold democratic views has been elected by two separate electoral divisions. The new Chamber will unquestionably wear a very different aspect from that which the House of the past Session presented.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

Letters from Russia describe the "situation" as anything but satisfactory. Both in Russia and in Poland a strong revolutionary spirit is known to exist, and it is difficult to say, if we take these letters for gospels, which country is most near the verge of an outbreak. The Emperor has established a Council of Ministers, which will share with him, as it is reported, the direction of affairs.

A telegram from Thorn tells us that the substitute of the Archbishop of Warsaw has been condemned to ten years' transportation to Siberia—a most terrible punishment for an offence which was nothing more than a display of patriotic spirit. Seven Jews and eight Christian medical students of Warsaw have been sentenced to serve as privates in the Russian army for something like the same offence.

SWEDEN.

Letters from Stockholm affirm that the King of Sweden has resolved to introduce a full reform into the Swedish Constitution, one of the most antiquated and cumbrous in its system of any existing in Europe. The legislative power is exercised in Sweden by a Diet composed of four distinct orders, the nobility, the clergy, the bourgeoisie, and the peasants, who meet very rarely, and hold their deliberations separately. The King, it is said, proposes to have a system of representation and legislation corresponding with that now adopted in all European countries which claim to evince political enlightenment, and towards which even Russia, by the step recently announced, appears to be slowly progressing.

TURKEY AND MONTENEGRO.

The latest news from the scene of the insurrection against the power of the Porte states that Dervisch Pacha had proceeded to attack the camp at Piva, but found that the insurgents had burned the encampment and abandoned the position. Their arms and baggage fell into the hands of the Turks. Sixteen battalions of Turkish troops are concentrated at the positions taken up by Omer Pacha.

Dousios, the young man who lately made an attempt on the life of the Queen of Greece, has been condemned to death.

Gold in British Columbia.—Late advices from British Columbia regarding the yield of gold are extremely favourable. New discoveries of great richness had been made, and in some localities the miners were realising larger sums than have ever been obtained by individuals in California or Australia. The instances of persons gaining steadily from £10 to £30 a day were numerous. Two labouring men had just arrived at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, with £1400, the produce of only a few weeks. Success was so general that it is said "we hear of no dissatisfied miners." A large immigration was consequently expected, but the great drawback consisted in the absence of steam communication between San Francisco and Victoria.

Denmark.—The misunderstanding between Germany and Denmark, it is stated, is only sleeping. Denmark has been preparing her defences during the whole of the summer, and the English volunteer system has been successfully copied throughout the country.

British Museum.—A large gathering, including the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Lord Chancellor, and a long list of officials, decided, a few days ago, to support the scheme, so long proposed by M. Panizzi, of separating the contents of the British Museum into their natural groups. Of course, the plan has yet to be sanctioned by the House of Commons.

MR. LINCOLN'S CABINET.

AT so critical a time as the present, when war or peace are the great issues that impend, one wants to know who are the men in America by whom the conduct of that country is likely to be guided. It is not difficult to answer such a question. Next to Mr. Lincoln himself, who is at once thoughtful and determined, but who will doubtless before deciding listen to the opinions of his Ministers, stands Mr. Seward, the Secretary of State, whose portrait and memoir we have recently given; and then Messrs. Cameron (War); Chace (Finance); and Blair (Marine). We now publish Portraits of the three, with brief biographical notices. The other Ministers are Smith (Home Affairs); Welles (Postmaster-General); and Bates (Justice). But these occupy posts less intrinsically important than the three we have first mentioned. And this fact may a little guide us in estimating the probable result of the differences of opinion that have recently broken out on the subject of slavery. Mr. Cameron, the War Minister, has just spoken with the most decided approbation of the policy of arming the slaves to join in the fight against the South; while Mr. Smith, on the contrary, declared that this idea is not in accordance with the policy of the Administration. Of course the enemies of the Federalists will shout in exultation at this difference of opinion, and give it as a new evidence that the Americans do not know what they are about. It is quite useless reminding these gentlemen that the same difficulty occurs in every free country where two or more parties differ on certain weighty questions, and yet agree in the spirit of the Duke of Wellington's well-known phrase, to "carry on" the "Government in a loyal spirit." The latest news seems to show that, in spite of Mr. Smith's hesitating, the Democratic party is getting over its dislike to use so formidable a weapon against its former allies, and that it sees in the increasing popularity of the other party, the Republicans, powerful reasons why it should think of its own future political prospects, and be no longer tender of the safety of the South. We have again and again, as our readers know, held to the belief that the one and only question at the bottom of this war is that of slavery; and we have enforced constantly the arguments that the war must eventually explain and defend itself by the adoption of the natural and straightforward policy of becoming plainly and avowedly anti-slavery. We again assert our firm conviction that ere long it will be impossible even for the most malignant assailants of America to deny to the struggle this, its legitimate, character. And then what will be the policy of these men? Why, they will collect and disseminate every bit of fact or gossip tending to discredit the very policy they had so long clamoured for. We shall hear of nothing but the outrages perpetrated by the slaves, and of the evil motives of the Government in fomenting them. Happily the Federal Government is strong enough to deride all such assailants and pursue its own way if only she keep out of the war with England, and that the recent intelligence seems to show she certainly will do.

S. P. Chase (see Engraving), the new Finance Minister (Secretary of the Treasury), was born in the year 1808 at Washington, in Ohio. He received his early education at Cincinnati College, of which his uncle, Bishop Chase, was President. Chase left that institution to proceed to New Hampshire, where his mother's family were settled, and he finished his studies at Dartmouth College. Having passed his examination in 1821, he removed to Washington, where he studied the law under the auspices of William Wirt, then Attorney-General of the United States. He practised at the Bar in Cincinnati, and afterwards became a Senator of the United States. He twice had the honour of being elected Governor of Ohio.

Simon Cameron (see Engraving), Lincoln's War Minister (Secretary of War), is a Pennsylvanian, and was born in Lancaster county in 1792. Having lost his father at a very early age he was obliged, even in his boyhood, to depend on his own efforts for support. In 1816 he settled at Harrisburg, where he became an assistant in a printing-office kept by a Mr. Peacock. His frugality, industry, and regular habits of life gained him many friends, and his excellent character obtained for him the same advantages when, at a later period, he removed to Washington. There he obtained employment as a compositor in a newspaper-office. His endeavours to better his position gained for him, in 1832, the appointment of Visitor at Westpoint, a post which none but the most distinguished citizens are considered worthy to fill. During the last thirty years Simon Cameron has employed himself in railway and banking business, and, though in all his transactions he is admitted to have a very keen eye to his own interest, yet his reputation for strict probity has always been unblemished. His political career commenced in 1845, when he became a Senator of the United States for Pennsylvania.

Caleb B. Smith, Minister of the Interior, is a Yankee by birth. He was born at Boston on the 16th of April, 1808. In 1814 he removed with his parents to Ohio, and received his education in the Cincinnati College and the Miami Union. He devoted himself to the profession of the law, and settled in Indiana, where, in 1832, he established a newspaper on Whig principles, entitled the *Indiana Sentinel*. In 1833 he was elected to the Legislature, and from 1843 to 1850 he was the member for Boston in the House of Representatives at Washington. From 1850 until his appointment in the Cabinet of President Lincoln he again practised as an advocate in Cincinnati.

Gideon Welles, the Postmaster-General, has for the space of forty years been actively engaged in the field of politics. He is a native of the State of Cincinnati, and was originally a Democrat, but of late years has fallen into the ranks of the Republicans. Van Buren made him Postmaster at Hartford, but in 1840 he gave up that post. Under Polk's presidency he received an appointment in the Marine Department, in which he evinced much ability. On the revocation of the Missouri Compromise Wells abandoned the Democratic party, and during the contests relating to Kansas and Nebraska he became the violent opponent of his former political friends. In 1860 he was one of the delegates to the Convention of Chicago, and he was also a member of the committee appointed to nominate Lincoln in Springfield.

Edward Bates, the Attorney-General, one of the most able lawyers of the Union, was born in the year 1793 at Goochland, in Virginia. His father having a large family and a small income, Edward Bates was obliged at an early age to labour for his own subsistence. In 1814 he proceeded to St. Louis, where he studied the law under the superintendence of the advocate Rufus Caston. In 1817 he began to practise at the Bar, and his high talent secured to him considerable emolument. As a politician he has uniformly been moderate and consistent.

Montgomery Blair (see Engraving), the Minister of Marine in the present Cabinet of the North American Union, is the son of Francis B. Blair, who, in the days of President Jackson, was a man of high repute. Montgomery Blair was educated at Westpoint, in New York, where he passed a very honourable examination. He pursued his legal studies at St. Louis, and Pierce made him a member of the Court of Claims, of which post, however, Buchanan deprived him. Of late years he has resided at Montgomery Castle, near Silver Spring, in Maryland, where he has been much respected and beloved.

It will be seen from the above that the Cabinet of President Lincoln, with the exception of two of its members, is entirely composed of lawyers. When it is recollected that the President himself in early life intended to follow the profession of the law, it may fairly be expected that the Government of the Union will, at all events, betray no deficiency of legal knowledge.

PENSACOLA BAY AND FORT PICKENS.

THE news from America relative to the bombardment of Pensacola gives fresh importance to this portion of the coast of South Carolina, and, provokingly uncertain as it leaves the result, shows that the success at Hatteras and the more brilliant achievement at Port Royal are only parts of a stupendous scheme for carrying the war into the very homes of the Confederates.

One of the most daring acts committed by the Southern Secessionists against the Federal Government of the United States at the very beginning of the armed struggle was the seizure of the Pensacola Navy-yard and of the adjacent Forts M'Rae and Barrancas. This seizure was effected on the 10th of February last by a body of troops belonging to the State of Florida.

Fort Pickens, by far the strongest of the three forts in Pensacola Bay, still remained in possession of the Federal Government, owing to the courage and decision of Lieutenant Slemmer, the officer in command.

The Southern journals announce that Colonel Brown opened fire from Fort Pickens on Pensacola on the 19th ult. The Federal steamers Niagara and Colorado took part in the bombardment, but after some time were obliged to haul off, having been disabled by the fire from Fort M'Rae. The Pensacola Navy-yard was three times on fire.

It may be that the only object of the Federals at present is to destroy the Navy-yard, so that no ships of war may be built or sheltered there.

Fort Pickens is situated upon the right of the entrance of the Bay of Pensacola. Upon the left is Fort M'Rae, and upon the same shore with the latter, one mile and a quarter further up the bay, is Fort Barrancas. These forts are equidistant from each other, and so situated as completely to command the entrance to the harbour. Fort Pickens is an admirably-constructed fortification, at the extremity of a long, narrow sand spit which separates the bay from the gulf for some distance. This fort is so situated as really to command the entrance to the bay completely. It is approachable by land only along the narrow neck mentioned above, and its defences are so arranged that even a small force may defend it against vastly superior numbers. Fort M'Rae is rather a dilapidated concern, but is, nevertheless, a strong water-battery. Fort Barrancas is well built, and a powerful defence of the entrance of the harbour, but neither its construction nor position is adapted to resist a strong land attack. These three large fortifications, with all their guns, ammunition, &c., were, at the time of the outbreak, in charge of a single company of artillery, under the command of Lieutenant A. J. Slemmer. This occupied the barracks near Fort Barrancas.

The Navy-yard is situated upon the same shore of the bay with Fort M'Rae and Barrancas, about one mile and a half above the latter. When captured the disposable force at the yard consisted of about seventy sailors, or "ordinary men," as they are termed, and forty-eight marines. There were also at the yard the United States' store-ship Supply, with two 30-pounders and thirty-eight men, and the steamer Wyandot, with six 32-pounders and eighty men.

The rumour of the intended seizure reached the Federal authorities at the Pensacola works about the 9th of last February; and Lieutenant Slemmer, deeming that Fort Barrancas was in too weak a condition to resist an attack, determined to remove his forces, ammunition, supplies, and arms to Fort Pickens, on the opposite side of the channel, which, besides being a strong fort, also commanded the entrance to the bay and the other forts. The Navy-yard, which is distant about two miles and a half, was thought to be beyond the range of the guns at Fort Pickens. In accordance with this design, on the morning of the 10th of February the force under Lieutenant Slemmer's command was transferred to Fort Pickens by means of boats from the U.S. steamer Wyandot and the store-ship Supply. Fort M'Rae, which was in too dilapidated a condition to be of any great service, was abandoned, and about 23,000lb. of powder, together with a quantity of fuses and shot, and the tackling and gear of the guns, were destroyed. The guns at Barrancas were spiked, and were in that condition when the Florida troops, under the command of Colonel Lomax, took possession of the fort.

These movements had been but a short time executed when the State troops made their appearance, and the Navy-yard was surrounded, with but a short parley. The marines in the barracks, to the number of thirty-six, were made prisoners, together with the labourers and employés in the yard. On the following day the store-ship, under a flag of truce, proceeded to the wharf of the Navy-yard, where the labourers and marines were taken on board.

It now appears that the guns of Fort Pickens can reach the Navy-yard, perhaps through the introduction into the fort of a superior class of ordnance. Since the above was written we learn that the *Philadelphia Enquirer* publishes a letter from Fortress Monroe, giving further details about the Fort Pickens affair. Pensacola was reported to be entirely evacuated by the Confederates, and the Navy-yard destroyed. General Bragg had sent for reinforcements. Five Federal vessels which assisted Fort Pickens in the bombardment of Pensacola are reported to have been riddled with shot.

A LITERARY TRAVELLER.—Mr. Hollingshead, a popular writer of the day, has undergone some strange experiences. He has spent a whole night on the top of the Monument, has gone down to the bottom of the sea in a diving-bell, has travelled backwards and forwards on the engine of the Brighton "Express," has journeyed from London to Birmingham in a canal-barge, has walked through all the principal London sewers, and, standing in the middle of a sewer right under Buckingham Palace, has there trolled forth the National Anthem!

KINGS AND SCAVENGERS.—It sounds strange to hear that the most healthy class of men are the scavengers, but such is the fact; and it is assumed that the power of ashes to absorb noxious emanations of all kinds is at the bottom of the striking immunity which the scavenger exhibits from all febrile complaints. Of the upper classes, the clergyman lives longest—the physician next—the lawyer next. The gentry may be reckoned as long-lived as the clergy; but the higher aristocracy are below the learned professions; and the members of Royal houses, again, average three years' less existence than even the aristocracy. Hodge under his hedge has a chance of thirteen years' longer life than a Bourbon or a Guelph, on the authority of those learned in vital statistics; so that we have contrasts to ponder on in modern life which our ancestors never dreamt of.—*Curiosities of Civilisation.*

ANOTHER BALTIC STEAMER HAS BEEN LOST, making the seventeenth in the space of about twelve months. This last vessel, the Ouda, belonged to London, not to Hull, as did the majority of her unfortunate companions. She was lost in the Cattegat, but her crew were saved.

COURT-MARTIAL.—A naval court-martial assembled on Saturday last on board the Formidable for the trial of Mr. Charles Paget Hodges, Second Master of her Majesty's paddle-wheel steamer Dee, at Chatham, on charge of having, on the 23rd of November, been drunk and incapable of performing his duty on board the said ship. The Court considered the charge fully proved, and sentenced the prisoner to forfeit two years of his seniority as a Second Master, to be dismissed from her Majesty's ship Dee, and to be severely reprimanded.

THE BIRMINGHAM POULTRY SHOW.

THE Birmingham Cattle and Poultry Show opened on Monday week, it being what was designated the "private view" day; but from the moment the doors opened until late in the afternoon the vast area of Bingley Hall was one of dense crowd, including the most eminent agriculturists and a large assembly of the aristocracy, not only from the adjoining but from far distant counties. The show was a complete "success," and the more the different departments of it were looked into, the more that expression was confirmed. Every year something fresh is done in the way of utility, the council having that special object in view in every change made. There was a capital display of roots, for which prizes had been given by Messrs. Proctor and Ryland, Sir John Ratcliff, and other gentlemen; and this year, for the first time at this show, there was a small collection of agricultural implements, the council having been able to set a small space apart for that purpose, every foot of which was occupied.

The show of poultry was also a magnificent one, and was as usual one of the "features" of the exhibition. Such an infinite variety of breeds and plumage could be

SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW

THE last exhibition of this club at the Baker-street Bazaar has been held this week.

On the whole the exhibition of stock was less than usual but, altogether, the beasts displayed were of a very fine quality. It is evident from this show that the much-desired point of maturity or ripeness at an early age, coupled with size—which can only render stock feeding and breeding profitable—is meeting with that attention which it has been the earnest aim of the Smithfield Cattle Club, from the first day of its origin, to promote.

The Devons were better because not quite so small. Mr. Heath, who has won two first prizes in these, is the champion of the year, winning two prizes of £25 each, one of £20, and one of £10, in addition to £20 at Birmingham, as well as being the holder of five gold medals in England and one in France. Earl Howe's Devon steer, three years and ten months old, which took the first prize at Birmingham, was admirably firm in flesh; and the Prince Consort's steer, two years and ten months, had all the points that a cattle-painter would seek in a perfect model. His Royal Highness has been singularly fortunate in his stock of beasts this year, winning several prizes, whereas in sheep and pigs he has almost totally failed. The Herefords came out well, and were, some of them, of extraordinary size. The £25 prize steer, exhibited by Mr. Shirley, was all over a pure Hereford—small head, short neck, well grown up to in the roundness of his broad shoulders. The exhibition of Scotch cattle was excellent, especially the Duke of Beaufort's. There was the largest Kerry cow ever seen, shown by Lord Berners; and there were two of the smallest and richest milkers from Brétonne, standing only thirty-two inches high, to contrast with it.

Of the sheep the judges spoke in the highest terms. There were several new classes for sheep, but the entries were few.

The pigs were not quite so fat; and were, therefore, more shapeable than usual.

The specimens of roots, especially swedes, were of a wondrous quality as to weight and size; and the agricultural implements exhibited by various eminent firms were of a character that would astonish the simple plough-and-harrow farmer of the olden time.

The gold medal for the best steer or ox, in any of the classes, was awarded to Mr. George Taylor; for the best heifer or cow in any of the classes, to Mr. John Faulkner; for the best of long-woolled sheep, to Mr. G. S. Foljambe; for best pen of one-year-old short-woolled sheep, in the 34th, 35th, or 37th classes, to the late Duke of Richmond; for the best pen of pigs, in any of the classes, to Mr. John Coate.

In the *Penny Illustrated Paper* of Saturday last (Dec. 7) appeared Engravings of the Prize Medal and other subjects relating to the annual exhibition of the Smithfield Cattle Club. We present our readers this week a general view of the show at the Baker-street Bazaar and an Illustration of a prize Hereford ox.

POULTRY AT THE BIRMINGHAM SHOW.

seen nowhere but in Bingley Hall, whilst the number of pens—nearly one thousand seven hundred—showed that amateurs are losing no interest in this pleasant pursuit.

The average weight of geese was greater—the white, grey, and mottled geese averaging 20lb. each. There were many turkeys of 18lb.; cocks and hens not in the prize list at all averaged 45lb. for the three birds. Aylesbury ducks averaged (for 21 birds) 7½lb. each, and there was a remarkable increase in the weight of Rouen ducks, now 6lb. instead of 5lb. a piece. The game bantams were of greater number and beauty than before. The Cochins are coming again into favour, and Brahmapootras formed a large class. The large size of Dorkins, Cochins, and Brahmas was also astonishing, many weighing 14lb. each. Why are not eggs sold by weight, as in France? A Spanish hen will lay eggs weighing four to the pound; a Cochin, eggs of six to the pound; while Hamburgs lay but eight to the pound. A hen laying six to the pound will produce 25lb. weight of food in a year, and if an egg is only an egg, so many to the shilling, we lose all the advantage of a naturally egg-laying breed over one that is specially suited for rearing families of chicks. New classes had been provided for pheasants and ornamental waterfowl, and the pigeons were as attractive and meritorious as ever.

Our Engraving illustrates the finest specimens. Beginning from the left, we have the white Dorking and the golden Poland; then the silver Poland and the Hamburg silver-pencilled; then the magnificent black Spanish; and lastly, on the extreme right, the Hamburg silver-pencilled and the Cochin China.

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Two Black Masks.

BY

BLANCHARD JERROLD.

CHAPTER XII.

The gendarmes reached Beauregard the morning after the fire; while people, attracted from many miles round, were still watching the hot and smoking ruins. Gangs of them were working hard to reach the spot where they hoped to find the remains of the unhappy family. Edmond was at the head of one of these gangs, and the shoemaker at the head of another. The women, with tears in their eyes, were admiring the two leaders, who were said to have behaved through the night like heroes.

"Poor creatures! And those dear, dear children!" cried Widow Souchet, who could not be persuaded to leave the spot, and would not have been tempted had she been told that King Charles the Tenth was waiting for some hot wine at the Bon Voyageur. "I think I see them trotting through the village with poor Virginie, in their pretty little boots. Many an apple have I given them, bless them! They were as good as gold; they had not a fault; I never saw them crying or out of temper; they never said a rude word to Virginie. And there they lie—blessed little innocents—under those horrible ruins. They are angels, are they not, Sir?" The widow turned to the Curé who was standing by.

"Be comforted," the Curé answered; and his voice trembled as he spoke. "May all of us have as good account to give of our lives as these poor people have taken with them. They were good Christians, and God, in his mercy, has taken them. But this is an evil day for Beauregard."

"A day yet to be accounted for," the Big Corporal interrupted. His staff shook as he pointed it to the blackened château walls.

"I shall always love Edmond from this moment," said Widow Souchet. "Doesn't he work like a lion? And as for Jacques, he'll kill himself."

"It is one of the torments of age that I must look on as useless as that pebble." The poor old Corporal struck one with his staff.

The gendarmes found room for their horses in the stables, and strode to the spot where the men were at work. A hundred tongues answered their inquiries. There was nobody of the household left to tell anything, but every man, woman, and child had a story to tell. The tramps who had raised the alarm in the village had disappeared. The gendarmes whispered among themselves. Widow Souchet heard a banging at her door, looked out of window, and saw that the château was on fire. She asked the men whether the Count and his family were safe; but they ran to the doors of her neighbours without answering her. She could not see their faces; but their voices were strange, quite strange—voices that she had never heard before—unknown voices. Another woman was woke by the cry of "Fire!" but she was so frightened she could tell no more, except that her husband rose and ran away to offer his help.

"Who was here first?" the sergeant of the gendarmes asked, looking acutely about him.

Nobody knew. Every man said that when he reached the château there was a crowd.

"Were they strangers?"

TWO BLACK MASKS.—THE SERGEANT QUESTIONING THE PASTOR.

"There were some strangers," was the answer; but no man was certain that he should know them again. The sergeant went up to Edmond, who was still hard at work with his companions.

"What do you know of this?" said the sergeant.

Edmond leant upon his spade and, wiping his brow with the back of his hand, said, "I'm afraid less than any neighbours."

"How is that?"

"Why, you see, sergeant, I had had a very hard day's work of it yesterday. I suppose I was in a heavy sleep when they came rattling at my door. When I got up, and into the road, I hardly knew what I was about till I was told to get my hammers. Then they said that the château was on fire. 'Bah!' says I, and I got them, and some of us came on here together; and I have been here ever since. But there's no time for talking. We must get at 'em; they're somewhere here."

Edmond set to work again lustily.

"Have none been saved?" said the sergeant.

Twenty voices answered "None!" The sergeant looked puzzled, and went back to his men, with whom he remained in conference a few minutes. He then sent two men to make a minute inspection of the ruins, while two more went in the direction of the wood. The sergeant then addressed himself to the Curé.

"This is a most mysterious case. These tramps and the strange crowd are most unsatisfactory explanations. I'm afraid there has been foul work."

"Ah!" the Curé answered; "if so, there must be demons in the world."

"Permit me, Sir, to speak with you."

The Curé and the sergeant moved apart; while the villagers watched them with intense anxiety.

"Had the Count any quarrel with his people?"

"He was not popular in the village," said the Curé, "but, I will answer for it, none of my parishioners would have done this infamous thing."

The sergeant was not diverted from his point.

"Why was he unpopular? Because he was a nobleman; or because he had quarrelled with some of his labourers—or what?"

"The Revolution has been heard of here, of course," the Curé answered, "and its bad influences have been felt. But judge how little capable these poor, ignorant country folk were of such a deed. There is the man who is the most furious Republican in the village," pointing to Edmond, who was still working hard. "And yet he has behaved more bravely than any man in the village. He has never ceased working."

The sergeant scrutinised Edmond, and the Curé reproved him. "Your suspicions are unjust, sergeant, take my word for it. I answer for that man. Not because he is devout, for he is not; but he has a brave heart, and I don't believe he is capable of harming a worm."

The sergeant was eyeing Edmond still.

"Come, come" the Curé continued, "you will find nothing but what is admirable there. He is a great talker, but there's an end of it. That man, to my own knowledge, has been at his work all day long in his smithy. He and others have had their songs and noisy assemblies; but he has been the first to bed. And now, you know, we must admire his patriotism."

The sergeant tossed his head, and said nothing. The two gendarmes returned from their inspection of the premises. They reported that every part of the building save the solid walls had been consumed. They could find no traces of incendiarism, nor of when the fire had originated. There were the remains of one or two great stacks of wood, and these probably helped to complete the disaster. At the rear of the château the

walls did not appear to be safe, and they were still so hot it was impossible to approach them.

"And not a soul saved to throw a light upon all this!" The sergeant looked at his wits' end.

The men who had been sent into the wood returned in the course of an hour. They reported that they had found some newly-broken boughs at intervals, but they could find no footsteps—the ground was so hard. The broken boughs were easily accounted for. The cows had strayed into the wood for shade, and were there still.

"Very well, very well," said the sergeant, impatiently. "Keep your eyes about you. See that nothing is taken away, and, above all, watch those men at work yonder."

The sergeant took the villagers apart one by one and questioned them. He remained at last with one in eager conversation. This was a ploughboy—as dull as ever ploughboy was seen.

"There was a great crowd at the doors when some of the inmates appeared," said the sergeant.

"Well."

"You see, sergeant," the ploughboy went on—"you see, there was so much smoke and noise that we couldn't see who it was. There seemed to be two or three of them when the doors fell in. Everybody shouted and pushed to help them. I, not being tall, couldn't see very well. But when I jumped up just as there was an awful shriek, I saw some arms lifted that seemed to hit at something."

"Ah!" cried the sergeant. "And then"——

"And then I saw no more; for there was a crash."

"Did you notice any strangers?"

"No, no," rubbing his shock head. "Only"——

"Only what? Speak out, rascal!" said the sergeant.

"Only a minute or two after some people pushed by me—knocked me over."

"Should you know them?"

"Not a bit; but two of 'em—if not more—had black things over their faces."

A few days afterwards the Paris papers, after describing the death of Count Baptiste de Capelle and his family, added, in the manner of our neighbours, that "Justice was informing herself." We shall learn, presently, what knowledge she gained.

THE COTTON-PLANT, or shrub (Gossypium), which is only acclimated in America, is indigenous in India. It has something of the size and appearance of a currant-bush. On the centre of each petal of the white flower there is a pretty crimson spot; when the flower withers away the pods appear; and when the ripening pods, which were about the size of an apple, burst open, the downy threads or fibres of the seed-vessels hang down like long feathery flakes. The yellow blossoms, the crimson spotted petals, and the snowy tufts of the Gossypium make the cotton-field a beautiful landscape. The tailor-bird of Hindoscan sews together a few large leaves with cotton threads, making in this way a nest which swings from the shady boughs of the shrub. According as these snowy tufts or feathery flakes are short or long, the cotton is called short or long staple cotton. Long staple cotton is fine and silky, presenting the delicate aerial elegance of appearance which is the characteristic and the charm of tropical vegetation. Usage, the legislator of language, always calls cotton the fibre of the plant, although it is well known to be the hair of the seed, for flax, from Linum usitatissimum, consists of woody fibres, or tubes, whose membranes have been thickened by successive layers of cellulose and sclerogon; and cotton is composed of the hairs or elongated cells surrounding the seeds of various kinds of Gossypium,—hairs which under the microscope seem peculiarly twisted.—*Dickens's All the Year Round.*

BIRDS AND INSECTS.—At the late agricultural meeting at St. Gallen, in Switzerland, Baron von Tschudi, the celebrated Swiss naturalist, dwelt on the important services of birds in the destruction of insects. Without birds, said he, no agriculture and vegetation are possible. They accomplish in a few months the profitable work of destruction which millions of human hands could not do half so well in as many years; and the sage, therefore, blamed in very severe terms the foolish practice of shooting and destroying birds, which prevails more especially in Italy, recommending, on the contrary, the process of alluring birds into gardens and cornfields. Among the most deserving birds he counts swallows, finches, titmice, redtails, &c. The naturalist then cites numerous instances in support of his assertion. In a flower-garden of one of his neighbours three rosetrees had been suddenly covered with about 2000 treelice. At his recommendation a marsh-titmouse was located in the garden, which in a few hours consumed the whole brood, and left the roses perfectly clean. A redtail in a room was observed to catch about 900 flies in an hour. A couple of nightswallows have been known to destroy a whole swarm of gnats in fifteen minutes. A pair of golden-crested wrens carry insects as food to their nestlings upon an average thirty-six times in an hour. For the protection of orchards and woods titmice are of invaluable service. They consume, in particular, the eggs of the dangerous pinespiders. One single female of such spiders frequently lays from 600 to 800 eggs twice in the summer season, while a titmouse with her young ones consumes daily several thousands of them. Wrens, nuthatches, and woodpeckers often dexterously fetch from the crevices of tree-bark numbers of insects for their nestlings.—*Once a Week.*

PARLIAMENT is further prorogued to the 7th of January.

Recreations.

M. ROBIN has found it necessary to withdraw from his entertainment the really scientific portion. The public are not curious to learn from a Gallican wizard how all the lamps in London's streets may be lighted simultaneously—at least that portion of the public which visits the *séances* of magic and mystery. Such entertainments live entirely on one principle—that of exhibiting effects only and concealing the causes. The wonder experienced is the result of the willing ignorance of the audiences. It is evident that these have no wish to be enlightened. They carefully preserve the required ignorance that they may secure the pleasure of the illusion. The exposition of the causes is proper to institutions of an expressly scientific character, such as the POLYTECHNIC and the COLOSSEUM. At the former establishment Professor J. H. Pepper has introduced some novel subjects. Under the title of "The Iron Age" he now lectures on the Armstrong, Whitworth, and rifled guns in general; illustrating the topics in detail by means of photographs, diagrams, and pictures, under the action of the oxy-hydrogen light, employed on the largest scale. At the same institution Mr. James D. Malcolm exhibits an entirely new series of dissolving views, representing the navies, dockyards, and iron-clad war-steamers of England and France, from sketches supplied by Mr. J. L. Pickering. The progress of the new International Exhibition continues to be illustrated from Messrs. Birnstingl's photographs.

M. Blondin commenced on Monday an entire change of performances at the CRYSTAL PALACE. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews at the EGYPTIAN HALL are perfectly successful in the reception of the "Reminiscences" and their "At Home" is nightly visited by the fashionable world. At the ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION Mr. and Mrs. German Reed maintain their popularity, and Mr. Parry on Tuesday related musically the story of "The Colleen Bawn" to an admiring audience.

Some change, as usual at the approach of Christmas, has taken place in the performances of the SURREY. On Saturday and Monday "Othello" was performed, the Moor being sustained by Mr. Creswick, and Iago by Mr. Henry Marston (late of Sadler's Wells). Mr. Marston's representation of the latter character is regarded as the best on the modern stage, and much strengthened the caste on these occasions. Mr. Robson, at the OLYMPIC, has performed the "Blighted Being" during the week, while Mr. Sothern, at the HAYMARKET, has undertaken a new character in a piece adapted by himself from the French vaudeville of "Livre III., Chapitre I.," and entitled "Aunt's Advice." The plot of this drama is already well known, having been previously acted on the English boards under the name of "The Novel Expedient" and "The Subterfuge." The part of Captain Leslie, as performed by Mr. Sothern, was light and vivacious; and we were glad to find that the actor attempted no exaggeration in it.

Mr. Boucicault, having recovered from the loss of voice which he incurred by his exertions during the rehearsals of "The Octoroon," has resumed his part of Salem Scudder. The drama of "The Colleen Bawn" has also been added to the bill, and the author plays his favourite character of Myles-na-Coppaleen. Preparations, we understand, have been long making for giving a happy ending to "The Octoroon," to be brought about by the addition of an extra sensation-scene or two. On Monday the altered version was produced, Mr. Boucicault having suddenly announced it to the public in a characteristic advertisement. He states that he had been in the hourly receipt of many letters entreating that the termination of "The Octoroon" should be modified, and the slave-heroine saved from death; and that he could not resist the kind feeling expressed throughout this correspondence, nor refuse compliance with a request so easily granted. Wherefore, he adds, "a new last act of the drama, *composed by the public and edited by the author*, will be represented on Monday night." This is both neatly and quietly put. It is also wisely done. The public instinct in such cases is generally right. Besides, there is a growing dislike on the part of thinking people to a dramatist resorting to the cheap resource of suicide for the solution of a romantic difficulty. If all along the audience is aware that help is coming which would prevent the evil altogether, if only it arrived in time, it is the less willing to accept the poor apology that justice had come too late. We have known this mistake to have been made more than once in the course of our critical experience, and always with the same result of comparative failure. The alterations now effected in "The Octoroon" are very judicious. The effects at the end of the fourth act are remarkably stirring. Zoe, the Octoroon, has escaped from the hold of the Magnolia steamer, and finds refuge on board a canoe; but, before she can push off, Jacob M'Closkey escapes from the vessel he had fired, and, seeing the girl, rushes into the boat after her. She is thus in his power. The fifth act consists, accordingly, of a pursuit by Salem Scudder, George Peyton, and Wahnotee. M'Closkey, with his victim, is discovered in the cane-brake, where he has tied her to a post for safe custody while he sleeps. But she hears the steps of her preservers, and tells him so when he wakes. He flies with her to the Red Cedar Swamp, and then to the Painted Rocks. The pursuers are on his track. On the heights above he aims his gun at them, wounds Peyton, and seems to have the best of it; when, by an act of self-devotion, Scudder causes him to expose his person, and Peyton hits him. Mortally wounded, he falls over the precipice. Zoe is thus restored to her lover, and they determine to seek a more Christian clime where their union will be lawful. We cannot conclude this notice without complimenting Mr. Emery on his powerful portrait of the vulgar and nefarious planter. The part, too, of Mrs. Peyton is played by Mrs. Marston in an artistic manner. Mr. R. Phillips is great in Wahnotee.

DRURY LANE has added to its programme Mr. Planché's amusing farce of "The Follies of a Night," and the comedy of "The Governor's Wife." The latter comedy is also performing at the NEW ROYALTY. At SADLER'S WELLS the tragedies of "King Lear" and "Ion" have been the attractions of the week.

THE CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS.—At the Royal English Opera, Covent-garden, a pantomime will be produced, written by Maddison Morton, and in which Mr. W. H. Payne will be the prominent feature. The theme selected is Swift's remarkable satire of "Gulliver's Travels," and a grand transformation scene, by Callcott, is already whispered to be a stupendous feature. At Drury Lane, which has well maintained its celebrity for this kind of amusement, there will be a grotesque burlesque pantomime, by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, founded on those legendary stories of the nursery, "The House that Jack Built," and "Old Mother Hubbard and her Wonderful Dog," and which will be, as usual, magnificently illustrated by Mr. William Beverley. The Haymarket pantomime will be, as usual, furnished by Mr. Buckstone himself, entitled "Little Miss Muffett and Little Boy Blue; or, Harlequin and Old Daddy Longlegs." The Princess' again advantageously employs the smart pen of Mr. H. J. Byron, who has founded his pantomime opening on the adventures of "Whittington and his Cat." The St. James's has a mythological extravaganza, by Mr. William Brough, on the subject of "Perseus and Andromeda." The Lyceum has enlisted the services of Mr. Leicester Buckingham, who has based his extravaganza on the story of "Little Red Riding Hood," Miss Lydia Thompson being the heroine. The Olympic has a fair extravaganza, written by Mr. Burnand and Mr. Palgrave Simpson. The Strand is sure to be well furnished with another of Mr. Byron's pun-crammed burlesques. The subject selected is "Puss in Boots." Sadler's Wells has an extravaganza-cum-pantomime, written by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, entitled "Cherry and Fair Star; or, the Singing Apple, the Talking Bird, and the Dancing Waters." The Surrey pantomime will be called "Harlequin Hey Diddle Diddle, the Cat and the Fiddle; or, Oranges and Lemons, and the Twelve Dancing Princesses," linking the nursery rhymes with an effective German fairy tale.—*Era.*

Gossip.

The boa constrictor at the Garden of Plants, Paris, which swallowed its blanket some time ago, and disgorged it about a month afterwards, has just died, owing, it is supposed, to its having retained so indigestible a mass such a length of time in its body.

The episcopal church at Fairfax Courthouse, in Virginia, has been destroyed by the Confederate and Federal troops. This church was one of the oldest in the United States. It was built by Lord Fairfax, and the pulpit and altar were constructed in England. It was in this church and at this altar that George Washington was married.

A singular wager was decided at Paris a few nights ago, and, notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, was witnessed by a considerable number of persons. M. L—— having betted £400 with M. K—— that he would walk blindfold from the Arc de Triomphe de l'Etoile to the Place de la Madeleine, it was agreed that the wager should be decided at eleven o'clock that night, and M. L—— accordingly started precisely at that hour, attended by witnesses chosen to see all fair. After considerable wandering about, M. L—— reached the Place de la Madeleine about a quarter to three o'clock, and won the bet.

A St. Petersburg letter of the 20th ult. says:—"The winter has set in here with extreme severity. The Neva is already passable on foot, and will soon bear sledges. A merchant, M. Solodovnikov, has applied steam power to drawing sledges, and purposes establishing regular trains for passengers and goods between St. Petersburg and Cronstadt."

Bactrian camels have been introduced into California, and are most valuable for packing over mountains and plains. They carry easily 650lb. and will travel thirty miles a day with a load of 1000lb. They only require to drink once in ten days.

Mr Paulsen, we hear, is about to perform again his remarkable feat of playing ten games at chess blindfold, simultaneously and publicly, against ten practised amateurs. This singular and interesting exhibition of mental power is to come off on Monday next at Mr. Ries's great chessroom in the Strand.

ITALIAN CABS AND OMNIBUSES.—The *Official Gazette* of Turin publishes a telegram from Naples stating that the cabdrivers of that city struck work on the 4th, in consequence of the introduction of omnibuses. The National Guard quelled a riot which occurred on the occasion, and the strike was put an end to. As it was rumoured the occurrence was owing to Bourbonist intrigues, a demonstration took place in the Via Toledo in favour of Victor Emmanuel and Garibaldi, whose busts were carried about in triumph.

BRIGHT AND COBDEN ON THE DIFFICULTY WITH AMERICA.

At a banquet given to Mr. John Bright at Rochdale last week the honourable member expressed his entire sympathy with the Northern States in their efforts to suppress the rebellion of the South. He demonstrated, by a chain of historical facts, that slavery was the sole cause of disunion, and that from the aggressions of the slaveholders on the one hand, and the awakened conscience of the North with regard to slavery on the other, such a crisis as that which has arisen was inevitable. He argued that great nations could not be broken up at the will of particular sections; that the maintenance of the Union would subserve the highest interests of liberty and civilisation; that the loyal portion of the Southern population, especially in the border States, demanded sympathy and support; that it was impossible that the North could ever consent that Washington, the capital, or the Mississippi River, should become the possession of a rival Confederacy; and that the Federal Government owed protection to the four millions of negroes who would otherwise be handed over to the tender mercies of their taskmasters. He deprecated the irritating tone of a portion of the English press, and of one or two speeches and acts of men in power. Adverting to the affair of the Trent, Mr. Bright expressed no opinion as to the legality of the act, but expressed his belief in the President's anxiety to maintain the most friendly relations with this country, and that he would make reparation if his law officers pronounced the seizure of the Confederate Commissioners to be illegal. In the concluding portion of his speech he dwelt upon the fearful nature of the contest with which we were encharged, and again avowed his hearty sympathy with the cause of the Union. At the commencement of the proceedings a letter was read from Mr. Cobden urging that opinion on the American difficulty should be suspended till the answer of Mr. Lincoln's Government has been received, and that the entire code of maritime law requires revision, with a view to exempt all neutral ships from obstruction in time of war. Proposals in this direction were made by the Washington Government more than five years ago, but without success. In conclusion, Mr. Cobden earnestly protests against European intervention in the American war.

We append extracts from Mr. Bright's speech, which occupied many columns of the *Times*:—

WHY THE NORTH WILL NOT GIVE UP THE SOUTH.

"It is a curious thing to find that the party in this country which on every public question is in favour of war at any cost, when it comes to speak of the duty of the Government of the United States is in favour of peace at any price. I want to know whether it has ever been admitted by politicians and statesmen that great nations can be broken up at any time by the will of any particular section of those nations? It has been tried occasionally in Ireland, and if it had succeeded history would have said with very good cause. But if anybody tries now to get up a secession or insurrection in Ireland, it would be less disturbing in everything than the secession in the United States, because there is a boundary which nobody can dispute. I am quite sure the *Times* newspaper would have sent a special correspondent, who would have described gloomingly and exultingly the manner in which the Irish insurrectionists were cut down and made an end of. Let any man try in this country to restore the Heptarchy. Do you think that any Minister in this country would think it a thing to be tolerated for a moment? But if you will look at the map of the United States, you will see that there is no country in the world probably, at this moment, where any plan of separation between North and South, so far as the question of boundary is concerned, is so surrounded with insurmountable difficulties. For example: Maryland is a Slave State, but Maryland has by a very large majority voted for the Union. Would Maryland go North or South? Kentucky is a Slave State, and one of the finest States in the Union, and containing a fine people. Kentucky has voted for the Union, and has been invaded from the South. Missouri is a Slave State; Missouri has not seceded, but has been invaded from the South, and there is a Secession party in that State. There are parts of Virginia which form themselves into a new State, resolving to adhere to the North; and there is no doubt a considerable Northern and Union feeling in the State of Tennessee; and I have no doubt that there is in every other State—indeed, I am not sure that there is not now within the sound of my voice a citizen of the United States, a citizen of the State of Alabama, who can tell you that there the question of secession has never been put to the vote, and that there are great numbers of most reasonable and thoughtful just men in the State who entirely deplore the condition of things there existing. Well, then, what would you do with all these States, and with what may be called the loyal portion of the population of these States? Would you allow them to be dragooned into this insurrection, and into the formation of a new State, to which they themselves are hostile? But what would you do with the city of Washington? Washington is in a Slave State. Would anybody have advised President Lincoln and his Cabinet and the members of Congress and the House of Representatives of Senate from the North, with their wives and children, and everybody else who was not in favour of the South, that they should set off on their melancholy pilgrimage northward, leaving a capital hallowed by such associations, having its name from the father of their country—would you say that they should travel northward, and leave Washington to the South, because Washington was situated in a Slave State? Again, what do you say to the Mississippi River? Have you seen it on the map, the father of waters, rolling that gigantic stream to the ocean—do you think the fifty millions who will one day occupy the banks of that river to the northward—do you think that they would consent that that great stream should roll through a foreign, and it might be a hostile, State? And, more, there are four millions of negroes in subjection. For them the American Union is directly responsible. They are not Secessionists. They are now, as they always were legally, not subjects nor citizens, but under the care and power of the Government of the United States. Would you consent that these should be delivered up to the tender mercies of their taskmasters, the defenders of slavery as an everlasting institution? Well, if all had been surrendered without a struggle, what then? What would the writers in this newspaper and other newspapers have said? If a bare rock in your empire that would not keep a single goat alive be touched by any foreign Power, why, the whole empire is roused to resistance; and if there be, from accident or from passion, the smallest insult to your flag, what do your newspaper-writers say on the subject; and what is said in all your towns and on all your exchanges? I will tell you what they would have said if the Government of the United States and the North had taken their insidious and dishonest advice. They would have said that the great Republic is a failure, that democracy has murdered patriotism, that history affords no example of such meanness, no such cowardice; and they would have heaped unmeasured obloquy and contempt upon the people and the Government that had taken that course."

MR. BRIGHT'S CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS.

"Before I sit down I must ask you, what is this people about which so many men in England at this moment are writing, and speaking, and thinking with harshness—I think with injustice, if not with great bitterness? Two centuries ago multitudes of of the people of this country found a refuge on the North American continent, escaping from the tyranny of the Stuarts and from the bigotry of Laud. Many noble spirits from our country endeavoured to establish great experiments in favour of human freedom on that continent. Bancroft, the greatest historian of his own country, has said, in his graphic and emphatic language, 'The history of the colonisation of America is the history of the crimes of Europe.' From that time down to our own period America has admitted the wanderers from every clime. Since 1815, the time which many here remember, and which is within my lifetime, more than three millions of persons have emigrated from the United Kingdom to the United States. During the fifteen years from 1845 or 1840 to 1859 or 1860—a time so recent that we all remember the most trivial circumstances and events that have happened in that time—during those fifteen years more than 2,320,000 persons left the shores of the United Kingdom as emigrants for the States of North America. At this very moment, then, there are millions in the United States who personally or whose parents have at one time been citizens of this country with persons, some of the eldest of those whom I am now addressing. They found a home in the Far West; they subdued the wilderness; they met with plenty there which was not afforded them in their native country, and they are become a great people. There may be those persons in England who are jealous of the States. There may be men who dislike democracy and who hate a republic. There may be even those whose sympathies warm towards the slave oligarchy of the South. But of this I am certain, that only misrepresentation the most gross, or calumny the most wicked, can sever the tie which unites the great mass of the people of this country with their friends and brethren beyond the Atlantic. Whether the Union will be restored or not, or the South will achieve an unhonoured independence or not, I know not and I predict not; but this I think I know, that in a few years—a very few years—the twenty millions of free men in the North will be thirty millions or fifty millions—a population equal to or exceeding that of this kingdom. When that time comes I pray that it may not be said among them that in the darkest hour of their country's trials England, the land of their fathers, looked on with icy coldness, and saw unmoved the perils and the calamities of her children. As for me, I have but this to say:—I am one in this audience, and but one in the citizenship of this country; but if all other tongues are silent mine shall speak for that policy which gives hope to the bondsmen of the South, and tends to generous thoughts, and generous words, and generous deeds between the two great nations who speak the English language and from their origin are alike entitled to the English name." The hon. gentleman resumed his seat amid great cheering, having spoken for an hour and forty minutes.

MASON AND SLIDELL.—These gentlemen were both Senators of the United States, and retained their seats and drew their pay until after the bombardment of Sumter. Mason was the author of the famous, or rather infamous, Fugitive Slave Law which, amongst other peculiarities calculated to recommend it to an anti-slavery public, provided that the magistrate adjudicating upon the case of a captured fugitive should receive ten dollars for every negro whom he returned to slavery, and only five dollars each for such as he discharged. In May, 1860, he made a lengthy speech in the Senate defending slavery as a Divine institution, a blessing to the white race, and an unparalleled advantage to the negroes.

The Volunteers.

CAMBRIDGE CORPS.—In a match on the 5th and 6th of November between the members of the town and ten of the University Corps, the former side made 266 points and the latter 245. The town side thus won by 21 points. The shooting was at ranges of 150, 200, 250, and 300 yards; and the average score of the town side was 26·5, and of the University 24·7 points. The result is all the more creditable to the town corps as Mr. Ross, the celebrated champion shot, was on the side of the University. Mr. Ross scored the highest individual number of points, making 37 points, while the next largest score was 32 only.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF VOLUNTEERS.—A communication of considerable importance to medical officers of volunteer corps has just been issued from the War Office, as it places them upon the same footing as field officers, and entitles them to sit as members of councils, &c., and exempts them from tax on one horse. It is dated War Office, Nov. 18, 1861, and is addressed to D. Turner, Surgeon second battalion of Sussex Volunteer Rifles, and is as follows:—"Sir,—I am directed by Secretary Sir Cornewall Lewis to inform you that the staff-surgeon of an administrative battalion of rifle volunteers is entitled to the position and station of a field officer. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, W. M'MURDO."

THE 1ST CITY ENGINEERS.—Lieut.-Col. A. Garnet Man, late of the 54th Regiment, and Professor of Fortification at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, has accepted the command of the 1st City of London Engineer Corps. He has offered to give a course of instruction to effective members similar to that pursued by the Royal Engineers at Chatham. This no doubt will be appreciated by those engaged in the constructive trades, and induce many to join, as it will afford an opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the science of fortification, and of the manner of adapting arts they already understand to the peculiar nature and forms used for the military service.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—The Birkenhead election took place on Tuesday. It resulted in the return of Mr. Laird, the Conservative candidate, by a majority of 323.—The Finsbury election will take place on Monday. Messrs. Mills and Cox have addressed several meetings during the week. The former, who is spending more money than Mr. Cox, seems to be the favourite.—For Nottingham there are two Liberal candidates: Sir Robert Carden, and the Earl of Lincoln.

THE AMERICAN SHIP LADY FRANKLIN BURNT AT PLYMOUTH.

THE unexplained fire on board this ship has created great interest in the port, among the maritime community especially.

It appears that she engaged in the Thames the services of a Channel pilot, who was landed at Plymouth shortly after her arrival. Among the mixed crew, who were shipped in London, there are several Englishmen; some of the others are said to be Americans, with Confederate tendencies. No doubt the recent important intelligence from the United States has created great excitement among them. When Captain Jordan landed he obtained all the latest news regarding the war, and the present position of the Confederate steamship Nashville, and went on board, intending to proceed to sea in the evening. Some objection was raised by the crew, and the departure was postponed until next day.

Shortly after midnight a young man of nineteen, who had the anchor watch, observed smoke rising from the forepart of the ship and gave the alarm. The Preventive Service cutter Hamilton was at anchor near, and Mr. Grieve, with his crew, went immediately on board the Lady Franklin, where he was soon joined by by Mr. Bath and Mr. Piper, R.N., from the Coastguard stations at Mount Batten and Stonehouse, and by Commander John R. Aylen, R.N., the newly-appointed Queen's Harbourmaster. Alarm-guns having been fired, further help soon arrived from the flag-ship Impregnable and gunnery-ship Cambridge in Hamoaze, and from Commander Brown, Master Attendant of the Dockyard, and the Lady Franklin was towed by the steam-tug Tinis from there to Cattead, in which there was a large windbound fleet, to the eastern part of the Sound in Jenny Cliff Bay, where she was again anchored. A Government floating engine was set to work, and the fire was prevented from extending, but it could not be extinguished, and it was therefore determined to scuttle the ship, which at ten in the morning was towed stern foremost towards the shore, so as to be in shallower water, and to present her bow to any heavy weather which may occur while she is submerged. All the loose stores were taken out, and conveyed to the Royal William Victualling-yard, where the Consul, Mr. Fox, took charge of them. Powerful chain-slings with guide-ropes attached were passed round the ship's bottom. The various Government departments rendered all the assistance possible to the ship, her master, and the crew.

Meantime the cause of the conflagration continues a mystery. The Lady Franklin registers 1280 tons, United States' measurement, and may be able to stow 2500 tons. She was built in America of hard wood, and has three decks; except one hatchway aft, all the rest were fastened. As the ship approached the Sound it became necessary to obtain a "norman," an iron instrument used to prevent the chain-cable from riding when it is

DESTRUCTION OF THE LADY FRANKLIN BY FIRE AT PLYMOUTH.

being veered out. The norman was in the hold, forward, usually called the forepeak. Here there was a quantity of log-wood, rope, useless gear, and the wood dunnage used in stowing cargo, and, it is stated, several mahogany chairs and tables belonging to the master. It was in the fore part of the ship that the fire commenced, and soon after it was discovered about eight of the crew placed their chests and bedding in one of the ship's boats, and absconded, but were overtaken by a boat belonging to a ship-of-war, and brought back to the Lady Franklin.

The other appliances being aided by the Admiralty floating-tank, sufficient water was let into the American ship Lady Franklin to ground her. Since then (the fire we presume being quite extinguished) attempts have been made to raise the injured vessel, and are still continuing.

FOOTBALL PLAYING.

This fine old English sport is still preserved in many places, and nowhere perhaps more vigorously than at Rugby. A match has lately been played (see our Engraving) which has excited a good deal of attention. The players belonged respectively to the two schools of Marlborough and Rugby, and the battle-ground was the Christ Church Cricket Ground, Oxford.

Four-and-twenty should have appeared on each side to do battle for their school, but three Marlburians failed to put in an appearance. Rugby won the toss, and took the wind, which was blowing pretty freshly. Marlborough taking the kick-off. We cannot detail all the noble exploits, all the skilful dodges, all the long drops, all the beautiful runs which made the 30th of November a memorable day in the annals of football. Suffice it to say that Mr. Blackburne made the Rugbeians, lives a burden to them by his runs and manœuvres, while Mr. J. Davenport did much the same for the other side; that Mr. Linton (of course) dropped out of sight every five minutes, and was worthily met by Mr. H. R. Chatfield; that Mr. K. M. Chatfield found a foeman worthy of his steel in Mr. Hopkins; and that everybody did their best (allowing for absence of wind internally and presence of it externally). Rugby got the best of it, though all the tries were missed. Some little difficulty arose occasionally about the slight difference of the Rugby-Marlborough rules, and the Rugby method of taking out the ball for a try never failed to excite the deepest admiration; but, in spite of these little points, the match was undoubtedly a success, and is, we hope, only the precursor of many more such friendly encounters.

A MATCH AT FOOTBALL BETWEEN THE RUGBY AND MARLBOROUGH SCHOOLS.

BRITISH TROOPS IN CANADA: THEIR WINTER COSTUME.

OFFICER OF THE LINE.

OFFICERS AND PRIVATE OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY.

OFFICER, SERGEANT, AND PRIVATE OF LIGHT INFANTRY.

THE anticipation of almost immediate hostilities has given rise to so many rumours, more especially affecting those who have relations or friends in the Army, that we may as well give our readers a few facts as to the corps really selected for service in Canada. The E battery, 4th brigade, Royal Artillery (Captain Vesey's) (see Engraving), has by this time sailed in the Melbourne, which, for safety, is escorted by Royal ships. The 1st battalion of the 16th Regiment Bedfordshire), under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Peacocke, and the 1st battalion of the Rifle Brigade, under the command of Lord A. G. Russell, will sail, probably, on Monday or Tuesday. The 1st battalion of the 15th Regiment Yorkshire), under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Cole, and the 96th Regiment (Derbyshire), under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Mills, are under orders to embark forthwith. A company of Royal Engineers from Chatham, and forty men of the Commissariat Staff Corps from Aldershott, are also under orders. These will be conveyed in the Australasian and Persia, now at Liverpool, each vessel taking about 1200 men. It is the opinion of naval men that the transports will be able to get up the St. Lawrence if dispatch be used, and there certainly will be no complaint on that score. Something more than the mere selection and dispatching of troops has occupied the attention of the authorities. Thanks to the experience taught during the Crimean War, the men will go provided with every possible requisite. Besides the ordinary warm clothing which was sent out in the Melbourne, each man will be provided with the following articles:—A fur (sealskin) cap, two flannel waistcoats, a pair of fur gloves, six pair of Canada boots, two pair of woollen stockings, a comforter, and a chamois-leather jacket. Some 3000 mocassins and snowshoes will also be sent as soon as they can be procured. How necessary these precautions are, and how they affect the appearance of officers and men, may be judged from our series of sketches illustrative of the winter costume of British troops in Canada. A Canadian correspondent tells us that the winters there are very severe, the cold being often 16 deg., 18 deg., and 20 deg. below zero. The snow lies frequently four feet in the streets; the St. Lawrence is driven over in all directions; roads are cut or the ice flattened. This river has a most extraordinary appearance from the ice floating down in large masses until at last the strong current itself becomes frozen, and the ice jammed in heaps, rises eight or ten feet above the usual level of the river. Everything that comes to market is stiff. All travel in sleighs; and various are the costumes—generally skins, buffalo hides, blankets, and leather coats with hoods. Many people suffer from being frostbitten; and oftentimes people are invited at by passers-by in the streets, intimating that some part of the face is frostbitten, which assumes a white appearance. Snow is immediately rubbed upon the part affected, which generally makes the blood circulate again, after a smart tingling.

In case of the soldiers being required on duty up the country while deep snow is on the ground, they are provided with regular Indian snowshoes, something like a very large racket. One entire regiment marched in these from Halifax to Quebec during the disturbances in 1836.

The frost is so intense that in one night water freezes many inches; and often the streets are so slippery that it is impossible, in an ordinary way, to walk. Creepers are then used—a small bar of iron at the bottom of the foot, on each side of which there

are two teeth to prevent slipping, fixed on with straps to the foot. Without these it is often impossible to walk at all.

When there has been a good fall of snow all people wear mocassins over their shoes or boots. Mocassins are leather shoes, generally made from the moosedeer. There are three or four manufactories of these in different parts of Canada, and also in the States. Many are very handsomely worked in front. They are exceedingly warm for the feet, and kept on all day, in and out of the house. The snow here is so dry that these leather shoes never become wet, as they would very shortly in England.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE PEACE SOCIETY TO LORD PALMERSTON IN FAVOUR OF ARBITRATION.

THE following memorial has just been sent from the committee of the Peace Society to Lord Palmerston:—

"TO THE RIGHT HON. LORD PALMERSTON, FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY.

"My Lord,—We ask permission, as the committee of the Peace Society, but representing also, in this instance, we are happy to believe the sentiments of a large number of persons not formally connected with that body, to express the deep concern with which we have learnt of recent events that are likely to create serious misunderstandings between this country and the United States of America.

"We rejoice in the assurance that, notwithstanding the irritating nature of the matter in dispute and the excited state of the public mind, your Lordship's Government are prepared to conduct the negotiations with the Cabinet of Washington with the utmost moderation and forbearance. Nor can we doubt that the generous people of this country, when the first natural irritation has subsided, will amply sustain your Lordship in such a policy of conciliation as that which, under the circumstances, would be most worthy of our character as a powerful Christian nation. England can, without any derogation of her dignity, afford to be magnanimous in her dealings with a sister State struggling in the agonies of a domestic revolution.

"We earnestly hope that the answer which may be received from the American Government will be such as to open the way for a speedy adjustment of the point in dispute. But, should difficulties interpose in the way of its satisfactory solution by ordinary diplomatic negotiation, we venture respectfully to submit to your Lordship whether the question on which the controversy turns is not of a nature which renders it specially suitable for reference to arbitration

"We beg leave to recall to your Lordship's remembrance that the principle of arbitration, which the British Government, to its great honour, was the first to commend to the attention of the Paris Conference of 1854, through the mouth of Lord Clarendon, was recognised and ratified by the unanimous consent of that august body, and embodied in a resolution expressed in the following terms:—'The Plenipotentiaries do not hesitate to express, in the name of their Governments, the wish that States between which any serious misunderstanding may arise should, before appealing to arms, have recourse, so far as circumstances might allow, to the good offices of a friendly Power.'

"The principle thus formally consecrated by the sanction of all the great Governments of Europe has since received the spontaneous and cordial homage of eminent statesmen of this country of various political parties. It was described by Mr. Gladstone 'as a great triumph, a powerful engine on behalf of civilisation and humanity.' The Earl of Derby referred to it as 'the principle which, to its endless honour, was embodied in the protocols of the Conference of Paris.' The Earl of Malmesbury pronounced the act of the Conference, in acknowledging and recommending the principle, as in his judgment and that of the Government of which he was a member, 'one of the most important to civilisation, and to the security of the peace of Europe,' because 'it recognised and established the truth, that time, by giving place for reason to operate, is as much a preventive as a healer of hostilities.'

"We would further remind your Lordship that Great Britain and the United States have already in their relations with each other solemnly recognised this principle even in its most rigid form of application. In a treaty between the two Governments relative to fisheries, commerce, and navigation, ratified at Washington, Sept. 9, 1854, there is a clause which provides that, in case of differences arising between the contracting parties on any matter connected with the treaty, the question in dispute shall be referred first to commissioners, and in the last resort to an arbitrator or umpire to be mutually chosen, the 'high contracting parties'—such are the terms of the treaty—'solemnly engaging to consider the decision of the commissioners conjointly, or of the arbitrator or umpire, as the case may be, as absolutely final and conclusive in each case decided upon by them or him respectively.'

"We respectfully suggest, my Lord, that here are authorities and precedents abundantly sufficient to warrant the British Government in proposing that the question now pending between them and the Government of the United States, if it cannot be otherwise settled, should be referred to the decision of some friendly and impartial arbitrator. If it be productive of no other advantage it will at least afford time for that exasperation of the public mind to subside which unhappily prevails on both sides of the Atlantic, and which, far more than any difficulty inherent in the subject itself, threatens to embarrass the two Governments in their attempts to give it a pacific solution.

"We earnestly pray, my Lord, that your Lordship and the Government of which you are the head may be endowed with 'that wisdom which is profitable to direct; which is pure, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated,' so as to avert from these two great civilised and Christian nations a war which would be a reproach to their civilisation and a bitter satire upon their professed Christianity. "JOSEPH PEASE, President.

"HENRY RICHARD, Secretary."

Law and Police.

ROBBING CHILDREN OF THEIR CLOTHES.—At the Westminster Police Court, on Tuesday, Elizabeth Johnson, alias Sarah Myers, was charged with robbing children of their clothes. Mrs. Hendle took her little girl, six years of age, on Monday afternoon to the door of the Bloomsbury School and left her there. Shortly after the prisoner made her appearance, and taking the children in her arms said she would give them some cakes. She, however, took them to a low lodging-house, stripped them of their clothes, and then left them. The accused, who made no defence to the charge, was committed for trial.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED FRATRICIDE.—At the Clerkenwell Police Court, on Monday, Walter Crane, described as a traveller, was charged with cutting and wounding his brother Christopher, with intent to murder him. The prisoner, on being asked what he had to say to the charge, replied, with great composure, "I shall reserve my defence if I am to be committed for trial." Mr. Barker said the case was one of a most serious nature, and he should therefore remand the prisoner for a few days in order to see what progress the injured man made, and for the full evidence with regard to the attempt upon his life.

AT THE MAIDSTONE ASSIZES a girl, nineteen years of age, was charged with strangling her illegitimate child at its birth. The evidence bore hard against her, but it was not altogether conclusive; and the jury, giving her the benefit of the doubt, found her guilty of unlawful concealment only, and she was sentenced to imprisonment for one year. A man named Atkins was also tried for the murder of his wife. The deed, which was committed under circumstances of peculiar atrocity, was clearly brought home to him by the evidence of his daughter, a girl of eleven years of age, who witnessed and detailed the circumstances of the murder. It appeared from other witnesses that the unfortunate couple had lived a wretched life for some time previous, the husband being inflamed with jealousy, for which, however, there appeared no reasonable cause. The counsel for the prisoner rested his defence on the plea of insanity, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty on that ground. The crime of firing stackyards has lately been rather prevalent in Kent, and several prisoners were brought to trial at these Assizes on that charge. The learned Judge declared that these wicked acts must be put down, and awarded to the different prisoners sentences varying from three to fourteen years' penal servitude.

THE LATE CAB OUTRAGE IN DUBLIN.—Agnes Wyles, who pleaded guilty to the indictment charging her with committing wilful perjury in the case of Curran, the Dublin cabman, has been sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment and hard labour.

THE LATE MURDER IN DUBLIN.—John Molloy, the unfortunate man who lately murdered one of his children, Arthur, and attempted the lives of another and of his wife and sister, under the melancholy circumstances reported by us at the time, was on Thursday week tried for the offence at the Court of Commission, Dublin. He pleaded not guilty, and was acquitted on the ground of insanity.

ILLEGAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—At the New Bailey, Manchester, on Thursday week, Thomas Whittaker, provision-dealer, was summoned by Mr. Whitehead, inspector of weights and measures, for having attached under his scales a farthing, which made the buyer a loser. He was fined £3 and costs.—Edward Riley, provision-dealer, Bradford, was charged with having a pair of bread-scales a quarter of an ounce against the buyer. He also was fined £3 and costs.

SENTENCE OF A SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE TO PENAL SERVITUDE.—At the Lincoln Assizes yesterday week Mr. Tooms, late superintendent of the Lincolnshire constabulary at Epworth, was charged with forging bills and presenting the same to the county, thereby obtaining the money purported to have been expended by him. He was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.

ADULTERATION OF TOBACCO.—At Bradford, on Monday, Mr. Saul Walsh, tobacconist, was charged with having mixed rhubarb leaves with cut tobacco; with having in his possession tobacco which had rhubarb leaves mixed with it; and with having rhubarb leaves in his possession. Evidence was given to the effect that, on the 7th of September, two officers of Inland Revenue went to the tobacco-manufactory of Mr. Walsh, and there saw a parcel of rhubarb leaves delivered by a person named Duggan to a servant of Mr. Walsh. On the 20th of September the officers made a visit to Mr. Walsh's retail shop and his manufactory, and again found small quantities of cut tobacco, which, as appeared by the evidence of analytical chemists, contained small proportions of rhubarb leaves. The defendant was fined, for one offence (mixing), in the mitigated penalty of £75.—Mr. Major Charles Duggan was then charged with two offences—viz., with delivering rhubarb leaves, to be mixed with tobacco, and also with having rhubarb leaves in his possession for the same purpose. The officers, on examining his premises, found a large quantity of rhubarb leaves prepared in a manner similar to those delivered to the last defendant. The defendant was fined, on one information only, £50.—Messrs. Smithson and Sugden, tobacconists, of Westgate Bradford, were next charged with mixing rhubarb leaves with cut tobacco, and also with having tobacco in their possession in which rhubarb leaves were mixed. The officers, on the 20th of September, seized 180lb. of tobacco on the premises of the defendants, and it was found to have amongst it rhubarb leaves. The defendants were fined, on one count only, in the mitigated penalty of £75.

THE IRISH MARRIAGE LAW.—An interesting marriage case—"Gibbons v. Gibbons"—came before the Consistorial Court of Dublin on Tuesday week. The suit was instituted by the promovent for the restitution of conjugal rights. It appeared that the impugnant, Alexander Gibbons, is a Protestant, a millowner, and the possessor of a considerable property at Tully Mills, Moate, in the King's County. Anne Gibbons, the promovent, who is a Roman Catholic, claimed to be his wife, and relied on a marriage alleged to have taken place in February, 1856, at Deerpark, near Ballymahon, in the King's County, and to have been celebrated by the Rev. Patrick Manion, a Roman Catholic priest. This case in many points resembles the celebrated Yelverton case. The evidence for the provoment went to show that the impugnant at the time of the ceremony, in reply to the priest, said, "I am a bad Catholic."—It was alleged, however, that the parish priest had refused to marry the parties, knowing that Mr. Gibbons was a Protestant, and they, therefore, went to Mr. Manion, who performed the ceremony at midnight in his own house. Letters were read which, it was proved, had been written by the impugnant, and in which he called the promovent his wife. Judge Radcliff, in delivering judgment, said his sympathies were with the unfortunate woman. Roman Catholics, however, must be bound by the law, which they had maintained, being of opinion that their own Church laws were sufficient for their protection. If they had many priests, he said, like the Rev. Mr. Manion, those laws would be of little value. He decided that the marriage was null and void, and was compelled to dismiss the suit for the restitution of conjugal rights.

SHARPERS OUTWITTED.—At the Lambeth Police Court last Saturday a middle-aged man of portly appearance, who gave the name of Johnson, and another who gave that of Miller, both of whom belong to a notorious gang of "skittle-sharps" and "magsmen," were charged with attempting to defraud a countryman, named Watts, of a silver watch. The sharpers in this instance caught a tartar in the person of their supposed flat, for it appeared he had been "diddled," as he called it, two years ago out of thirty shillings by a similar gang. From his evidence it appeared that Johnson had represented himself to be a police sergeant, and called on him in the Queen's name to assist in taking some pickpockets in the neighbourhood, and ultimately brought him to a public-house to treat him. They had not been there long when Miller made his appearance, represented that he had just come into a fortune, threw a parcel of flash notes about, and said he had been particularly told by his "lawyers" to keep gentlemen's company. They made great efforts to get him to stake his watch against a £5 note, and to toss for them, but he managed to see a constable, and gave both into custody. The prisoners were remanded.

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER.—Thomas Burgess, tailor and draper, Northwich, was charged last Saturday, at the Chester Assizes, with killing and slaying Elizabeth Burzess, his wife, on the 3rd of December. On the morning of Tuesday, December 3, the prisoner and his wife had a violent quarrel. The deceased became excited and struck the prisoner across his face twice and pulled his hair, and then struck him again. The prisoner then struck the deceased with his fist in the back part of her head. She staggered and fell down under the fireplace. She was taken up, put upon a sofa, but died within an hour without uttering a single word. A post-mortem examination was made, and the medical man gave it as his opinion that death was caused by concussion of the brain and the high state of excitement the deceased was in at the time by quarrelling with her husband. The jury found the prisoner "Guilty," but thought the prisoner had been aggravated to strike the blow; and the Judge sentenced him to two months' imprisonment without hard labour.

ASSAULT BY A TRADE UNIONIST.—A case of assault arising out of a strike came before the magistrates at Huddersfield last Saturday. The masons' labourers have, it appears, been on strike, in consequence of their wages being lowered from 18s. to 16s. a week, but the masters found no difficulty in getting men at the reduced rate. Two of the men who went to work were watched by two "turnouts;" and one of the latter, named Patrick Ward, caught hold of one of the opposite side, called thomas M'Kenny, and injured him fearfully with an iron pin. Ward was sent for trial at the assizes.

SAYERS AND HEENAN AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—At the Bow-street Police Court on Monday Mr. George Newbold, the well-known sporting publisher, was summoned, at the instance of the authorities of the British Museum, for neglecting to forward to the museum, in compliance with the provisions of the Act of Parliament, a copy of a book published by him, entitled "A History of the Contest between Sayers and Heenan." Mr. Newbold having apologised, Mr. Jones withdrew the prosecution on payment of the expenses.

Accidents, Inquests, Etc.

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.—On Saturday last Mr. Brent held an inquest on the body of Charles Gibbs. Deceased, on the 3rd inst., had, whilst intoxicated, met with an accident by which one of his ankles was fractured. On being taken to University College Hospital, it was deemed necessary to administer chloroform while the fracture was being reduced, and under its influence he died. Verdict—"Accidental death from chloroform, administered in a surgical operation."

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Mr. Noakes, the Portswood station-master on the South-Western line, was killed yesterday week. In saving a woman from being run over by a train he slipped on the rail and his body was cut to pieces.

CHILD-MURDER AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—A very sad affair took place on Thursday week in the neighbourhood of Hayward's Heath, on the London and Brighton line. Mrs. Agate, the wife of a respectable farmer, in a moment of frenzy cut the throats of her two little children and then her own. A girl, the youngest of the two children, was quite dead when assistance arrived; the elder is scarcely expected to survive. The wretched mother is the least injured of the three. Her health had for some time been the subject of uneasiness in the family, and a watch was placed over her conduct, though unfortunately not so vigilant as to prevent this most lamentable catastrophe. At the inquest on the body of the murdered little girl the jury returned a verdict against the mother of "Wilful murder while labouring under a fit of frenzy." The Coroner then issued a warrant for Mrs. Agate's committal for trial at the assizes. The unhappy woman will be taken to the lunatic asylum at Hayward's Heath, instead of the county goal at Lewes.

THE SHOOTING MANIA AT ALDERSHOTT.—There appears to be something radically wrong with the military arrangements at Aldershott or else a mania has taken possession of many of the soldiers. For three consecutive weeks men have been flogged for insubordination to non-commissioned officers; and, last week, a man named Sullivan, of the 84th Regiment, was only prevented by strenuous exertions from killing his colour-sergeant. He was flogged on Thursday week, and is sentenced to 168 days' imprisonment with hard labour.

SUICIDE BY A POLICE OFFICER.—On Sunday it was discovered that Police-constable Robert Allen, connected with the Fleet-street subdivision, had committed suicide by hanging himself. The unfortunate officer, it appears, some time ago, whilst endeavouring to rescue life at a fire, fell through a skylight, and was so badly injured as to incapacitate him from further duty. Whether that had any effect on his mind is unknown; but last Saturday night, after hobbling with a stick from the station-house to his home, he hanged himself.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.—A revolting attempt at murder was made yesterday week at Attercliffe, near Sheffield. A man named Townsend, a scissors-grinder, fired at his stepdaughter, named Eliza Fisher, and shot her down, and immediately afterwards shot himself. The man is dead, and the young woman lies with but little hope of recovery. The cause which led to this awful crime renders the story a more horrible one. The man had carried on an illicit intercourse with his stepdaughter, and she, disgusted, having left him, he wished her to return. Her refusal was the immediate cause of this horrible crime. At the inquest, held the following day on the body of Townsend, the jury returned a verdict of "Felo de se."

EXPLOSION IN BIRMINGHAM.—A terrific explosion took place last Saturday evening on the premises of Mr. Barnett, grocer and druggist, in Smithfield, Birmingham. Shortly after ten o clock one of the assistants went into the cellar for some article, and soon after his return a fearful explosion took place. The whole of the fittings of the shop were blown into the street, and several persons in the shop injured. The origin of the explosion is said to have been the ignition of paraffin.

THE LATE EXPLOSION AT CAMDEN-TOWN.—Alfred Jones, one of the victims to the destructive explosion of a cask of "paraffin" oil which occurred at Mr. Masters's oil and Italian shop in Great College-street, Camden-town, on Monday week, died last Saturday, after enduring great agony from the effect of the burning oil. His fellow-sufferer, Thomas Bailey, remains in the University Hospital, and, although the injuries he sustained are extensive and of a dangerous character, hopes are entertained of his ultimate recovery.

FATAL GUN ACCIDENT.—On Saturday last Mr Payne, the Coroner, received information of the death of Edward Leadbitter, aged fifty-six years, who resided at Battersea, and lost his life under the following circumstances:—It appeared that the deceased went out to shoot sparrows, and carried the gun at full cock, when by a sudden jerk it went off, the contents passing through the lungs and right shoulder. He was conveyed to Guy's Hospital, where Mr. Hilton, surgeon, was promptly in attendance, and rendered every aid that medical skill could suggest; but he gradually sank and expired.

FOUNDERING OF THE SHIP ANCIENT MARINER WITH FIFTEEN MEN ON BOARD.—The Ancient Mariner, belonging to Sunderland, left Montreal with a cargo of grain and flour for London, and on the 24th of October she encountered a strong westerly gale, which went on increasing. As there was danger of the ship driving on shore, she was wore round, when she laboured heavily, the sea breaking over her deck. The pumps were kept incessantly at work, but, in consequence of their becoming choked with grain, the water gained upon the vessel considerably. Shortly after this the pinnace was carried off the davits. An attempt was made to launch the life-boat, but it was swamped. The men, however, managed to bale her out. It was then proposed to cut away the mizenmast to ease the ship, but it was not carried out. At this time there were five feet of water in the hold. At ten p.m. all hands left the pumps, as the ship appeared to be settling down. A heavy sea struck the ship, and she went down head-foremost; the shock first threw her over on her broadside, and then righted her. A rush was made by the men to save themselves by clinging to spars and floating fragments as the ship settled down. Three of the men succeeded in getting into a boat which was being towed astern, and they had just time to cut adrift, when the ill-fated ship disappeared. Captain Johnson and fourteen of his crew went down with the vessel and perished. The three survivors in the boat could not see any of the sufferers floating about on spars. After being buffeted about during the night the men in the boat were picked up and landed at Cape Rosier, but they suffered much from the cold. The Ancient Mariner was upwards of 600 tons, and ship and cargo are reported to have been insured.

DEATH FROM CRINOLINE.—An inquest was held at Eastwood, near Nottingham, yesterday week, on the body of Mary Anne Rowley, a young married woman, twenty years of age. On the 19th ult. the deceased, a collier's wife, wearing at the time an extensive crinoline petticoat, was stooping down to take her baby up, when her clothing came in contact with the fire, and almost instantly she was in a blaze. She at once ran into the house of a neighbour, and the fire was put out, but not before she was severely burnt on the breast, arms, neck, and other parts of her body. She was at once taken to bed, and the surgeon attended her daily, but his efforts were unavailing, and she died on Wednesday. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally burnt."

ATTEMPTED MURDER IN SUFFOLK.—A labouring man named Reed is lying in a dangerous state at Polstead, near Hadleigh, Suffolk, having been shot in the back and right arm by some ruffian as he was returning home at night from his work. The gun was discharged at him at a distance of nine to ten yards only. The poor fellow succeeded in reaching his house, but there fell down from fright and loss of blood. Hopes are entertained of his recovery, although the injuries sustained are of a very serious character. The ruffianly assailant is still at large, but every effort is being made to bring him to justice.

SUICIDE.—Stephen Agate, a draper at Cuckfield, a cousin of John Agate, whose wife killed one of her own children and afterwards cut her own throat on Thursday last, committed suicide on Tuesday morning.

MARVELLOUS DESCENT DOWN A COAL-SHAFT.—The other day a lad named Hazard, whilst emptying a barrel of water at the Eskett Iron Ore Company's pit at Frizington, slipped and fell 170ft. down the shaft head foremost; but, strange to say, alighted without sustaining any injury. He owed his escape to the fact that there were 10ft. of water at the bottom of the pit. His head was jammed in the mud at the bottom of the pit, but he had presence of mind to press himself free; he then floated on the water, and was happily recovered, not much worse for his perilous descent.

SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF LIFE AT ABERREEN.—On Saturday last the Eagle brig, coal-laden from Newcastle, was wrecked while attempting to enter Aberdeen harbour, and two of the crew were drowned.

Sporting News.

DEERCATCHING AT CHATSWORTH.—Mr. Herring, purveyor of wild deer to her Majesty, was at Chatsworth about two years ago, and bought from 300 to 400 deer from the Duke of Devonshire. He is now at Chatsworth purchasing another lot. The mode of catching the deer is as follows:—A position is selected, and very high and strong nets are set up. Several horsemen and one stag-hound are then employed to drive the deer in the direction of the nets. When the deer find themselves mastered, and obliged to enter, they form in close line, like veteran troops, and simultaneously charge the nets, making a desperate effort to break them. The effect is very exciting, and the poor beasts get entangled and fastened in the meshes; sometimes a few get away. When the deer are caught, the horns of the bucks are sawn off, which prevents their fighting, and they can then be packed much closer in the two-deck vans for transit.

FOOT-RACE BETWEEN BARKER AND JONES.—A large muster of spectators assembled at Mr. Roberts's pedestrian-ground, West Brompton, on Monday, to witness the contest between William Jones, of Islington, and Samuel Barker, of Billingsgate, over a distance of five miles, in which Jones was allowed 100 yards start, for a stake of £50. The men (both of whom have run unsuccessfully with Deerfoot) have before contended, when Barker, who gave Jones half a minute's start in ten miles, caught him at four miles and a quarter, and won easily. At twenty minutes to four the men made their appearance on the ground, and at the word "off" they started away at a good pace, and up to the finish of the third lap Barker had made no perceptible diminution in the start he had allowed; but on the finish of the fourth lap he was not more than sixty yards in the rear, the time for the first mile being 4 min. 50 sec. On the finish of the eleventh lap Barker, finding he could not overhaul his opponent, retired from the course, leaving Jones to finish at his leisure, which he did, completing the distance in 30 min. 20 sec.

TO CRICKETERS.—It has lately been suggested by several cricketers that a monument should be erected to the late Mr Alfred Mynn, one of Kent's most noted champions. The proposition is, "that a mixed committee of twelve should be formed, consisting of an even number of gentlemen and players, and that the Marylebone Club, who always chose the All England Eleven against Kent in days gone by, should be represented by two committee-men; also that Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex, and Nottingham, with Kent, should each send two members." Should this suggestion be adopted, it would no doubt obtain the support of the cricket clubs of England.

ANOTHER VICTORY BY DEERFOOT.—At Norwich, on Monday, Deerfoot ran against Brighton and Lang. The gardens were crowded with thousands of all ranks. At 3.7 p.m. the start took place, and the men for several rounds kept well together, frequently changing their positions, the Indian being more than once last. At the 21st round, half the distance, Lang gave up, showing signs of exhaustion. At the close of the 41st round Brighton was about five yards behind Deerfoot, but in the final round he put on a spurt, and nearly closed on his rival. The Indian put forth all his strength for a decisive effort, and, with the help of his long legs and his apparently inexhaustible powers, succeeded in again recovering his advantage, finally winning by two or two yards and a half. The entire distance of six miles was traversed in 31 min. 30 sec.

Family Column.

MEDICAL COUNSELS TO PLAIN PEOPLE.

[From *Practical Medical Receipts.*]

TO MAKE A MUSTARD PLASTER.—Mix fine mustard flour with warm water until it is as thick as treacle, spread it on linen, cover it with silver paper; keep it on the skin from five to fifteen minutes. If a stronger one is needed, use vinegar instead of water, and give it a sprinkling of red pepper; if only a mild one is required, use equal parts of mustard and wheaten flour.

TO PUT ON A BLISTER.—Wash the part to be blistered with warm vinegar and dry the skin well. Snip the edges of the blister with a pair of scissors; warm it by holding the back of it to the fire for a few seconds, and then lay it carefully on; if it does not stick well it will not rise well; and if it puckers it will add to the pain. When it has well risen take it quickly off; snip the bladders of risen skin with sharp scissors. If it is to be healed up, dress it with lard, free from salt; if to be kept open, dress it with a bruised cabbage-leaf, with the mid-rib taken out.

FAINTS OR FITS.—Expose the patient to the air; loosen everthing round the neck and throat. If violent or convulsed, only use sufficient restraint to prevent him injuring himself or others. When the patient is pale, keep the head very low; when flushed, keep it very high; in either case use cold water plentifully to the head.

BURNS AND SCALDS.—The great thing to do is, without loss of time, to keep the wounded part from the air till the doctor can come. If not very severe, plunge the burnt or scalded part into the coldest water, and keep it there, or cover it well up in cotton wool, or even smear it with oil, or dust it with flour—almost anything, so that you keep it from the air—but cold water (if the wound is not very severe) is the best remedy, if used at once.

TO TREAT BED-SORES.—Patients long confined to bed, particularly those who are thin and weak, are liable to bed-sores; these, once formed, are hard to heal, add much to the patient's misery, and often shorten life. They mostly appear on those parts of the body which are pressed on in bed—namely, the lower part of the back, the hips, and shoulder-blades. Redness in these places should be carefully looked for in those confined to bed, and the parts dabbed every few hours with a teaspoonful of brandy beaten up with the white of three eggs till a kind of paste is made. If the sores have already formed leave them to the doctor.

TO PUT ON LEECHES.—As soon as they come turn them out of the box, and cover them with a large tumbler. Wash and dry the skin well, for a leech will never bite a dirty, sweaty part; then smear the place on which they are to be fixed with a little fresh cream or milk, put them on, and do not touch them till they fall off. If the bleeding is to be encouraged put on a large hot poultice; if stopped, dab the leech-bites with strong alum and water.

ENGLISH CONCERTINA, £1 11s. 6d. A genuine, full compass, forty-eight keys, double-action. Other qualities from £1 10s. to £8 8s. Inspection invited. Descriptive Price List post-free.—W. B. FISHER, 6, Ampton-street, W.C.

TO the LADIES.—FANCY ORNAMENTAL LEATHER WORK.—JAMES REVELL, of 272, Oxford-street Wholesale and Retail Repository for the sale of every requisite for the art. The trade and schools supplied. "The Complete Guide to the Ornamental Leather-work," with Illustrations as Working Patterns post-free for thirty stamps.

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NOTICE.—To show the importance of this publication, the following letter received from a lady will be read with interest:—49, Marine View, Ramsgate, July 13, 1860.—Gentlemen, sincere thanks for your precious book. My family will have occasion to pray for your happiness. For years we have despaired until directed to your announcement. I procured the Book, when, conceive my feelings at discovering an advertisement wanting a claimant to Four Thousand Pounds' worth of property left by my late husband's uncle. The solicitors have acknowledged our claim, and you shall shortly hear further from your ever-grateful servant, &c.—Signed, MARIA BAXTER.

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